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[From The English Illustrated Magazine.

If the present Season is not distinguished by the advent of many works of first-class merit, the actual number of books which have seen the light during the last few weeks is probably quite equal to the production of former years. The closing month of the year is mostly reserved by Publishers for the issue of books in which artistic adornment is in harmony with their literary pretensions, and in no inconsiderable number the quality of the former is of even greater consequence than that of the latter. A large proportion of the books recorded in our pages are therefore of the lighter sort, although a fair number of more substantial works will also be found in some of the Publishers' lists.

Literature for Children is most abundant, and indeed, is becoming annually more plentiful, whilst books of the intermediate class which appeal to adolescence, although nominally addressed to grown-up people, are enormously on the increase. The children of the present generation are most fortunate in having in their service a host of really competent writers, who have deliberately chosen for themselves a department of literary labour which, until recently, was regarded as a field in which distinction was unattainable. As with authors so with artists. No artistic work, however high its character, is now thought too good for the embellishment of Children's Books, and we accordingly find names of the highest distinction attached to the illustrations of current literature of this class.

The various processes based on Photography whereby printing blocks are produced, have now reached a high stage of perfection, and threaten, at no distant period, to relegate wood-engraving to the limbo of the lost arts. Probably the larger number of the Illustrated Books which have recently passed through our hands, were illustrated by one or other of the mechanical processes now available, and the result is satisfactory in proportion as the printer on the one side, and the artist on the other, have realised the limitations and capabilities of the particular process employed.

It is impossible to overlook the fact that the attractiveness of many of the books of the season is due in no small measure to the taste and ingenuity of the Bookbinder, whose art has kept fully abreast of the kindred branches employed in the production of books. The pictorial and decorative ornamentation of the exterior of many books frequently bears no unequal comparison with the quality of the engravings which illustrate the text. In books which are primarily intended as gifts for the young this external attractiveness is no small factor in completing the happiness of the recipient.

Gifts, whether to the children or their seniors, necessarily imply the existence of givers, and to such of these as need to make choice of books suited to their purpose, our pages will be found to afford guidance in whatever direction their tastes may lead.

From THE MAGAZINE OF ART.

Some of Shakespeare's Female Characters. By Helena Faucit, Lady Martin. New and enlarged edition. (W. Blackwood & Sons.)—By a former generation the authoress was known under the name of Helen Faucit, one of the sweetest, and most successful interpreters of Shakespearian Heroines during the early years of Her Majesty's reign and in conjunction with the celebrated Macready. When she quitted the stage on her marriage to Mr. (now Sir) Theodore Martin, she still figured occasionally as an exponent of the great Master in the way of readings from Shakespeare, followed at length in more permanent literary form by the studies on some of Shakespeare's women (published in 1885), of which we have now a new and enlarged edition. To the seven characters already discussed and illustrated—Ophelia, Portia, Desdemona, Juliet, Imogen, Rosalind and Beatrice—there is now added an eighth, the heroine of Winter's Tale, Hermione, Leontes' queen. The new article takes the form of a letter addressed to the Poet Laureate, in which Lady Martin gives her estimate of the character in question, with some reminiscences of her impersonation of Hermione with Macready as King. The relation of the play, and its obligation to Greene's *Pandosto* is also discussed. In Lady Martin's opinion she had an incomparable Leontes in Macready, and his acted emotion upon the gradual re-animation of Hermione in the statue-scene, she describes as being "the finest burst of passionate, speechless emotion I ever saw or could have conceived." The frontispiece consists of a fine line-engraving portrait from the painting by Lane.

Hindu-Koh: Wanderings and wild sport on and beyond the Himalayas. By Maj.-General Donald Macintyre, V.C., with Illustrations. New Edition. (W. Blackwood & Sons.)—Beyond the addition of an Index, there seems little to chronicle in the advent of this new edition of General Macintyre's book. It has stood the test of public opinion and won approval. The writer is a thorough true sportsman, and his narrative represents a period in Indian shikari now passed away; when muzzle-loaders and abundance of game were both the rule of the day, and before senseless "potting" had pretty well exterminated some of the rarer specimens of the Himalayan and trans-Himalayan fauna. A photographed trophy of a number of heads and skins from the author's collection forms the frontispiece to the volume.

My Water Cure. By Sebastian Kneipp, parish priest of Wörishofen, Bavaria, with Illustrations. Translated from the Thirtieth German edition, by A. de F. (W. Blackwood & Sons.)—In spite of his modest and unpretending disposition, the Pastor of Wörishofen is gaining, if he has not already gained, a European reputation. His little village is besieged, quite beyond its powers of hospitality, by crowds of invalids resorting thither to submit to the good priest's healing art. Amongst the latest of his clients is the millionaire, Baron Nathaniel de Rothschild, who was to be seen a year ago daily promenading barefoot and barehead, — this is part of the treatment—to the great entertainment of the villagers, who greatly enjoyed this unusual spectacle of Crœsus with his boots off! The course to be pursued, with its "lavations," and "effusions," and "swathings," &c., &c., are duly described in these pages, and illustrated by diagrams. The whole book is decidedly worth reading, even by those who may not be in need of the "cure" itself. The portrait of the worthy father Kneipp, which is given on the frontispiece, represents him in company with the appropriate symbol of a watering-pot!

◆

The Vision of Sir Launfal. By James Russell Lowell. With designs by E. H. Garrett. (Gay & Bird.)—It is long since Mr. Lowell wrote this poem. He anticipated Lord Tennyson's "Idylls" in this particular, and, as everyone knows, struck out a line of his own in his conception of the quest of the Holy Grail, and the part played in it by "Sir Launfal." Perhaps the most notable thing about the small volume now issued is its decorative aspect. It contains a portrait (frontispiece) of the author, taken in youth, and the text is accompanied by eight delicate mezzotint plates, illustrative of the poem. The whole makes a beautiful little gift-book of tasteful design and cultured character, worthy both of its subject and of the poet whose verse is enshrined therein.

Captain January. By Laura G. Richards. (Gay & Bird.) — Miss Richards — and it is giving her high praise indeed—strikes us as an American edition of Mrs. Ewing. She has that lady's love of children, and (to a certain extent) her perception of childish character. Moreover she writes in a very pleasant and attractive manner; and her management of her subject combined with much tenderness of feeling results in a story which if once begun will be eagerly pursued to its *finis.* Briefly stated we have to do with an old and affectionate lighthouse-keeper and the little girl who is—astronomy aside—the star and sunshine of his existence. She was wrecked, a treasured piece of jetsam—on the rocks where the lighthouse stood, and became henceforth the beacon of the aged seaman's existence.

The Birds' Christmas Carol. By Kate D. Wiggin. (Gay & Bird.)—A very pretty little Christmas book, hailing from America where it has proved a great success, and it will, no doubt, achieve equal popularity amongst ourselves. The child whose story is told in these pages comes into the world on the 25th of December, and receives the appropriate name of "Carol," and the family surname being "Bird," the combination of the two explains the meaning of the title of the volume. Poor little Carol, however, grows up to be an invalid, and her chief delight is to make other children happy, especially the poor. Of these a numerous and needy Irish household of nine children figure largely in the tale, with an account of their little benefactress' kindness on their behalf. A most fascinating picture of the heroine occurs on the title page, and there are many other engravings. The binding is a bright one with side-lettering and ornamentation.

The Lily of the Arno; or, Florence, Past and Present. By Virginia W. Johnson. Illustrated. (Gay & Bird.)—The city of Flowers, *Firenze la Bella,* as the Florentines love to call their city by way of pre-eminence, is for ever attracting the pen of the author to rehearse her praises. Is she not worthy? In spite of changes of throne and dynasty she maintains her ancient beauty and her mediæval character almost untouched. It is true that of late such relics of the past as the Mercato Vecchio and part of the city walls have disappeared in the craze for modern improvement. But much remains. By contrast with the ruthless demolition which has devasted Rome under the present Italian Government, the Tuscan capital is indeed to be envied. Every year will make her many charms more and more to be prized, and bring more and more travellers to her gates. That is, of course, if the hand of the destroyer and restorer is stayed, as we must pray may be the case, at least in our time. Miss Johnson adds another name, and another writer of her own sex too, to those who have already chosen the "Lily of the Arno" for their theme. In pleasant, discursive style she leads us through the city, recalling an historical incident at this point, or identifying another spot with some well-known name, or calling attention to beauty of architectural detail or of the sculptor's art, as progress is made from quarter to quarter. In order to bring home these particulars to the reader's eye, the book is adorned with twenty-five photogravure plates of various views and objects and buildings described. The volume itself is bound in imitation of the vellum and gold characteristic of the Florentine style, and the *fleur de lis* of the city arms is emblazoned in gules upon the cover.

The One Hoss Shay, and Companion Poems. By Oliver Wendell Holmes. With illustrations by Howard Pyle. (Gay & Bird.)—Within a quaint-looking stamped leather binding of antique appearance, Mr. Holmes' publishers have enshrined a trilogy of his humorous verse. It consists of his celebrated "One Hoss Shay," together with "How the Old Horse won the Bet," and "The Broomstick Train." The last of these revives the history of the witchcraft drama enacted in Salem, Massachusetts, some two hundred years ago. The other two poems record the praises of antiquity; namely, the venerable century-old "shay," built by the New England deacon of George Second's time, and the hardly less ancient quadruped, that was taken out of the shafts to run againt the field on Boston race-course and won the match. Mr. Pyle's designs are congenial to the subject, combining skilled draughtsmanship with a humorous style, and a happy reproduction of the fashions of the day that he has to present.

* * *

Living or Dead? By Hugh Conway. (Macmillan & Co.)—It is only five years since this story first came out in orthodox three volume form, yet already this fourth edition is needed. It is exactly like the last—indeed a reprint of it—and no doubt many will be glad of the fresh chance of obtaining so popular a novel at so moderate a price and in such handy shape.

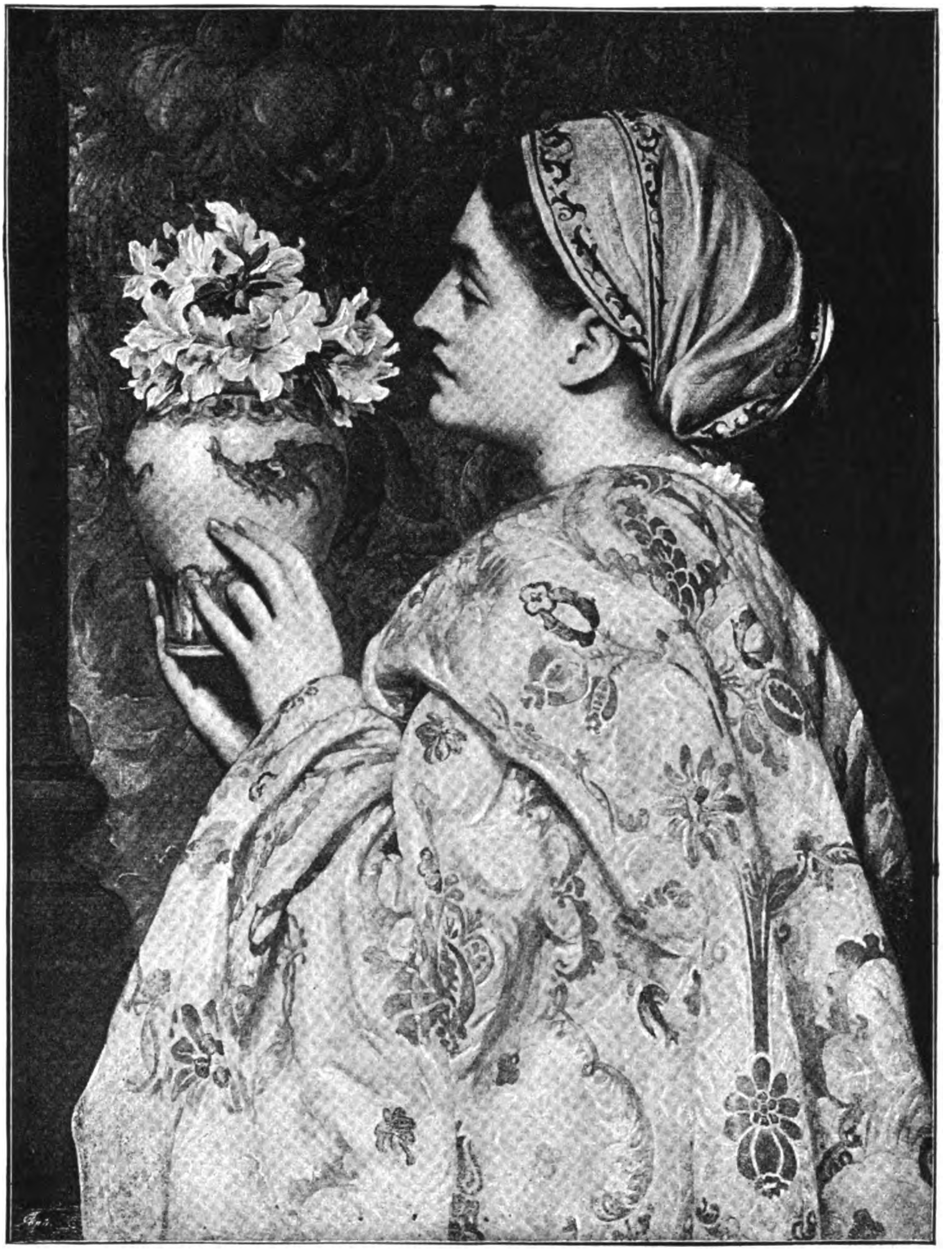
A Colonial Reformer. By Rolf Boldrewood. (Macmillan & Co.)—Few persons who have read one of the books by "Rolf Boldrewood" can help a certain regret that their author does not write more frequently. There is a manliness about all his men that is very charming, while his women are above all things womanly. His books moreover have a distinct value as studies of Australian life, and the publishers have done well to issue this "Colonial Reformer" in a handy one-volume form.

A Short History of the English People. By. J. R. Green. (Macmillan & Co.)—Messrs. Macmillan & Co. are now issuing in shilling monthly parts the illustrated edition of Green's "Short History," thus placing this standard work within everybody's reach. Moreover, the illustrations which embellish its pages are more than mere fanciful sketches of historic scenes. Museums and collections of all kinds have been ransacked and these beautiful facsimiles of seals, deeds and missals, reproductions of ancient illustrations of contemporary implements, ornaments, and so on, are of great interest, and of high value. Portraits will be given in the later parts, and maps, plain and coloured, are also included in the scheme. The whole method of illustrating adopted is rational, consistent, scholarly, and moroever quite the style of thing that the author himself would undoubtedly have approved. The execution of all the illustrations in the three parts that have yet appeared cannot too highly be praised, and the work in this new form will doubtless be very widely welcomed.

* * *

Glimpses of Italian Society in the Eighteenth Century. From the "Journey" of Mrs. Piozzi, with Introduction by the Countess E. Martinengo Cesaresco. Illustrated. (Seeley & Co.)—The re-publication of Mrs. Piozzi's "Journey," or, at least, the portion of it reprinted in this volume, is almost as much a disinterment of the dead as the excavations of Portici, which that good lady witnessed in the travels that she describes. But the particular aspect of her book which the title suggests, gives it a value and an interest of which those who are only acquainted with the featureless uniformity of the Italy of to-day, may be glad to avail themselves of. In spite of the advantages which Mrs. Piozzi enjoyed as the wife of an Italian and a Catholic, it does not appear that she saw much of the domestic interiors of the time, or if she did, took pains to suppress any particulrs. Still, it was something to make the Italian tour when the Doge still held sway at Venice, and to witness the romantic ceremony of the Bridal of the Sea, to visit Naples when it had its own sovereign, and, above all, to be privileged to view Rome before its romance, and beauty, and picturesqueness had fled. Mrs. Piozzi had eyes, moreover, for what she saw, and could make very fitting reflections upon the successive scenes visited by her. The sweet manners and musical intonations of the Venetians won her admiration; the grandeur of St. Peter's impressed her; she noticed the rich peasant costumes that then prevailed; and she could even rise to an appreciation of the mountain landscape of Switzerland, at least, in its minor aspects, which may be noticed as a rarity in the prevailing tastes of the age. The "Journey" which is thus revived in these pages took place in the summer or early autumn of 1784—the year of Johnson's death. All intercourse between them was brought to an end by her second marriage, and the letter in which he addressed her, imploring her to forego the Italian tour and remain in England, is the last that passed between them.

THE MAGAZINE OF ART.*



A VENETIAN LADY. AFTER SIR F. LEIGHTON.

AMONG the pleasurable accompaniments attending the close of the year and the advent of the Christmas season, must be reckoned the annual volume of this magazine. Considered as a picture-book only, it must rank with the very best examples of the kind. But it fulfils a higher and nobler purpose, as the exponent and chronicler of the year's art at home and abroad; supplying well-written papers by competent hands, added to a multitude of illustrations, etchings and engravings, which in themselves make the volume a repository of beautiful objects. As regards the letterpress we have only to mention the names of Messrs. Spielmann, Lumsden Propert, Claude Phillips, Percy Fitzgerald, and Cosmo Monkhouse to shew that the literary aspect of the volume is the work of a staff of authors and critics who hold the highest positions in their own particular lines. If we turn to the contents, we find ourselves confronted by a variety of attractive subjects, making it difficult to know when to pause. There is, for example, a series of articles on some famous country seats, Warwick, Belvoir, Berkeley Castle, Knole, &c. illustrated by the pencils of Messrs.

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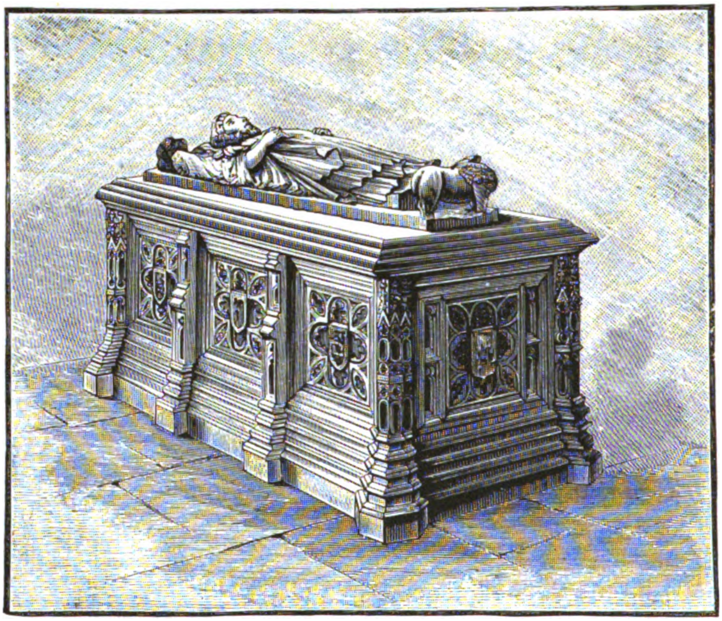
* *The Magazine of Art.* Cassell & Co.

Fulleylove, Finnemore, and others. The English School of Miniature Art furnishes the theme for another set of papers which will be found well worth reading. The portraits of Thackeray and Ruskin form a group by themselves, while rising and notable painters of the day are discussed in the articles on Messrs. Sargent, Murray, Khnopff and Constant. Mr. Holman Hunt's addresses on drawing should be also mentioned, and so should the articles on Illustrated Journalism, serious and comic, including a paper on the subject from the author's point of view by Mr. W. Black. The illustrations of the magazine are profusion itself, and are as excellent in quality as they are abundant. Full page etchings, line-engravings and photogravures are given to the number of a dozen, a magnificent plate by Dobie after Mr. G. F. Watts forming the frontispiece of the book. Minor examples present themselves in Sir F. Leighton's Venetian Lady, of which a woodcut is appended; in Kien's engraving of O'Neil's Death of Raffaelle; and in some of the examples from the Armstrong and Maddocks collections. But had we to enumerate all the gems of the magazine, it would be necessary to carry this notice to greater length than is possible.

THE TOMBS OF THE KINGS OF ENGLAND.*



King John's Tomb in Worcester Cathedral.

It is only when the reader comes to study a work of this kind that he realises how little he knows of the subject discussed therein. Most people know that a certain number of the English sovereigns lie within the sacred walls of the Abbey of St. Peter, Westminster, St. George's Chapel at Windsor, and at Winchester; but few have any idea of the way in which other royal graves "lie scattered far and wide, by mountain stream and sea." Henry IV. lies at Canterbury, William of Normandy is at Caen, Richard Lion-Heart at Rouen, James II. at St. Germains; while the last survivors of the unhappy Stuart line are resting at St. Peter's, Rome. Edward II. was buried at Gloucester, and John at Worcester; while others again seem to have vanished like Enoch, or to have been translated like Elijah. Anyhow, there is no sign of their burial place. King Richard III. may have been left literally for daws to peck at, and the first of the Plantagenets has vanished as utterly as Moses did. Stephen was thrown *sans cérémonie* overboard, and some of our other monarchs have disappeared mysteriously. Perhaps the most interesting part of Mr. Wall's most interesting volume is his account of the desecration of the royal tombs by various curious people—generally, one regrets to find, ecclesiastics of high rank. John's tomb was twice opened, and, oddly enough, this worst of kings seems to have "kept" better than any of his betters; though his last exposure to the air finished the reconversion of his body to its original dust. Dean Kitchin of Winchester has been a considerable profaner of the royal tombs under his care, and has shown a great fondness for exhumation, examination, and tabulation of the contents of the coffins. Dean Stanley was another Paul Pry, with a ghoulish fondness for the examination of royal bones; and at different times carefully investigated the condition of Henry III., Richard II., Henry VII. and his queen, Mary, Elizabeth, and James I. Dean Thomas, too, a century earlier, actually stood by while the remains of Edward I.—royal robes, sceptre and crown included—were carefully imbedded in pitch! Mr. Wall has much to say on all these and other points, while his illustrations of the tombs are most valuable and artistic. One of the smaller of these, for which alone we can find space, we reproduce, showing the present tomb of King John at Worcester.

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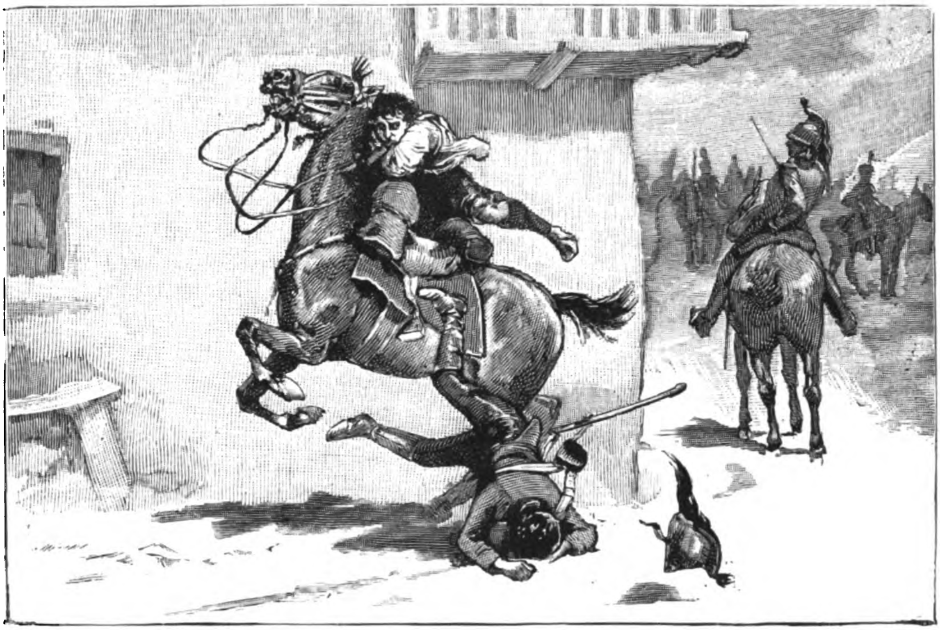
* *The Tombs of the Kings of England.* By J. Charles Wall. Illustrated by the Author. (Low, Marston, & Co.)

THE WORLD OF ADVENTURE.



Encouraged by the success of the former volumes issued under this title Messrs. Cassell & Co. have yet once again prepared this annual feast of adventure stories for their boy readers. And the very first page is enough to stimulate the excitement of the boyish mind, for above it stands the magic word "Trafalgar." Graphically is the story of the great fight told. There are no waste words. The curtain rises on a brief prologue, just sufficient to indicate who are the *dramatis personæ* in the magnificent drama about to begin, and then like the chord that indicates the crisis, comes the short sharp sentence, "Nelson was on deck in his fighting coat." From Trafalgar we go on to a story of a man-eating tiger, and then follow, The Sack of Panama, A Famous Duel, The Inquisition at Macerata, Pirate Adventures, Tales of the Barbary Corsairs, A History of '98, The Story of the Communists, A Correspondent's Experiences during the Siege of Plevna, and so on. There is no type of adventure that is not here described, no escape so hazardous that it has not here a parallel. The wonder is that so much has been left over from two preceding volumes of such excellence as those that we have noticed in other years. For the future the publishers have apparently no care. Like Horace's advice to Leuconoë they tell their readers, *Carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero.* The illustrations, like the text, are full of fire and life, as may be guessed from the one which we reproduce from the account of an incident in the life of Martino Diaz.

Story Poems for Young and Old. Edited by E. Davenport. (Cassell & Co.)—The difficulty of meeting with a good collection of English poetry suitable for general reading, and more particularly for the young, is often felt. The want, however, is in a large measure supplied by Mr. Davenport's volume which, as indicated by its title, consists almost entirely of narrative verse. The pieces selected are with few exceptions all taken from nineteenth century writers, and room has been made (we think wisely) for less familiar authors in preference to the universally known poems appearing in every ordinary collection. Mr. Hamilton Aide's "Skipper and His Boy," Westland Marston's "Death Ride," Sir E. Arnold's "Wreck of the Northern Bell," Whittier's "Two Elizabeths," Southey's "Bishop Hatto," Leigh Hunt's "Abou Ben Adhem,"—such are the contents, and they give an idea of the character of the volume. Nor is the humorous class forgotten, in the selections that are given from Louis Carroll, Andrew Lang, and the author of the "Bab Ballads."

The Cabinet Portrait Gallery, reproduced from original photographs by W. & D. Downey. Second Series. (Cassell & Co.)—The high excellence of all the Messrs. Downey's work would in itself make a collection of portraits of their taking a valuable one. But to this is added the particular interest arising from the subjects of the photographs here presented. Necessarily, the personages in question are, all of them, public characters; and nine-tenths of the "Gallery" consist of faces with whom we are most of us very familiar. Royalty is represented by the Princess of Wales, the Duke of Clarence and Princess Christian; the Law, by Sir C. Russell and Sir J. Hawkins; the Stage and Concert Room by a number of celebrities including Mr. W. Barrett, Mrs. Kendal and Miss M. Davies; the Church by Dr. Abbott and the Bishop of Ripon; and Science by Sir R. Ball and Sir H. Roscoe. Each portrait has a short biographical notice appended. There are three dozen portraits in all, and the whole volume makes one of the most original and clever picture-books of the season.

MY EXPERIENCES IN EQUATORIAL AFRICA.*

DR. T. H. PARKE.

THIS will probably form the last of the long series of books written by the various members of Mr. Stanley's unhappy expedition in search of Emin Pasha. Yet many as these books have been, we could hardly well have spared this latest, which has a peculiar and special value from the fact that it was written by the medical officer of the expedition from his own standpoint as a man of science. The physiology and nosology of the different tribes in the interior are among the special matters belonging to his own department, of which Dr. Parke alone can speak with authority, while concerning the other matters more directly connected with the expedition—those which have formed the subject of so many and bitter recriminations—he tells us much that is exceedingly valuable as explanatory of and supplemental to the revelations of his colleagues. Dr. Parke himself apparently never loses his temper — indeed his good temper and his modesty are equally conspicuous throughout the pages of the volume. All through the trials that the expedition underwent Surgeon Parke seems to have kept his head—probably far more than any other man there — and his sound judgment must have been invaluable. The frontispiece is an admirable likeness of the author, which we reproduce; chiefly because it so thoroughly suggests his character as well as shows the details of his countenance. The other illustrations (save two from the talented pencil of Mrs. H. M. Stanley) seem to be chiefly from photographs by the author himself.

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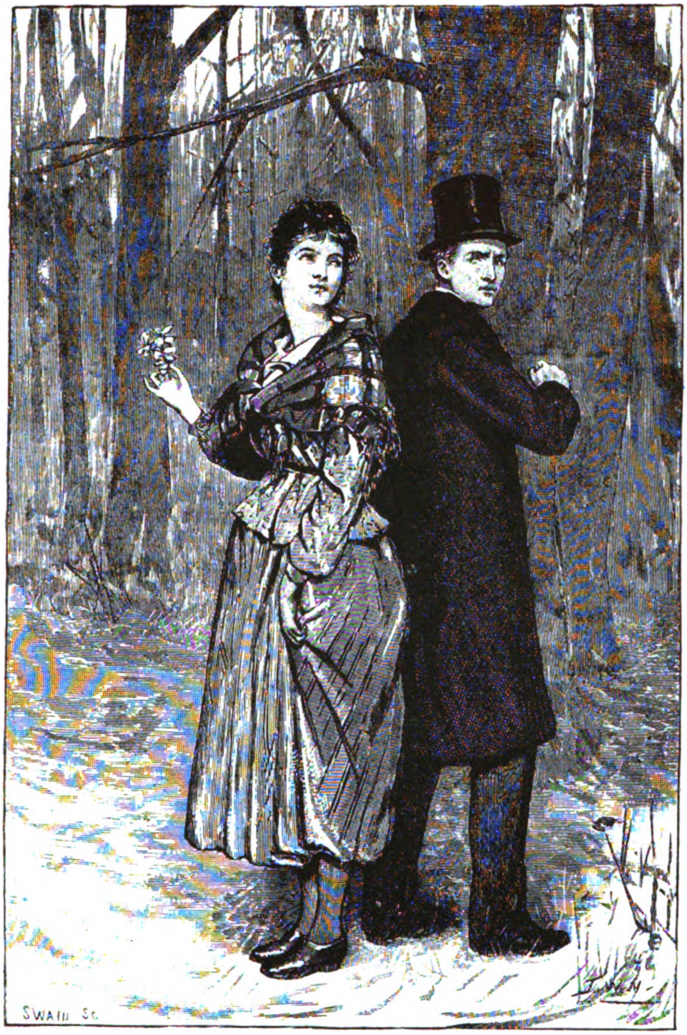
* *My Personal Experiences in Equatorial Africa.* As Medical Officer of the Emin Pacha Relief Expedition. By Thos. Heazle Parke, D.C.L. With map and numerous illustrations. (Low, Marston & Co.)

GOOD WORDS AND THE SUNDAY MAGAZINE.



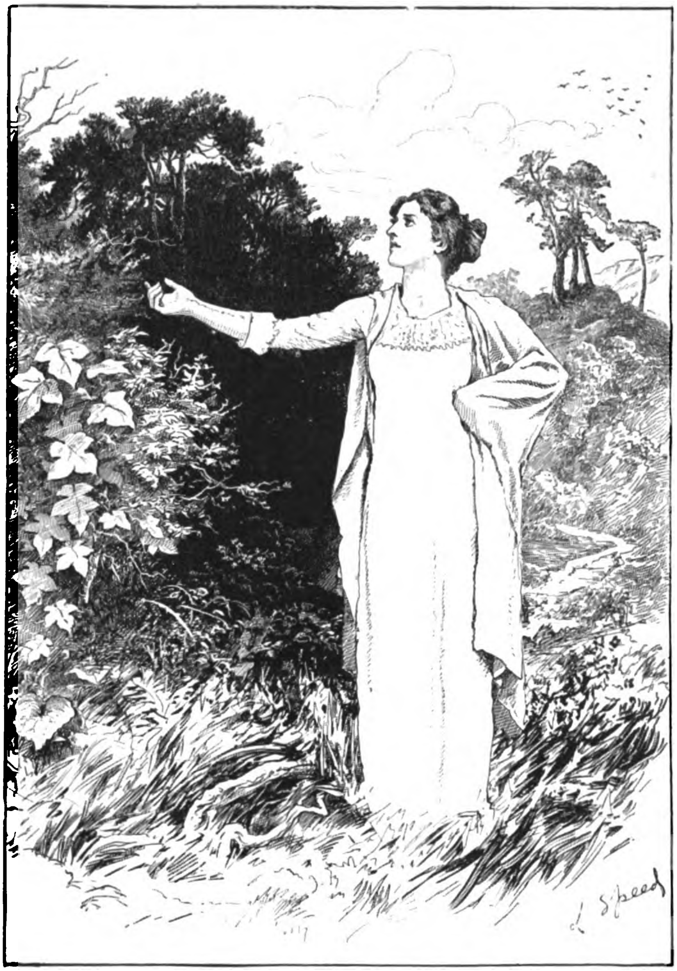
Reduced Facsimile from "Good Words."

These two handsome volumes once more make their annual appearance, and well may Messrs. Isbister & Co. be congratulated upon the excellence of both. *Good Words* is so old a friend that it is no easy matter to avoid saying something about it which has already been said, and the rather because the reviewer has the same task year by year of awarding nothing but praise. He may examine every illustration, or read and criticise every page of reading matter, yet in neither case can he find anything to cavil at. The tone of the whole is thoroughly Christian, but so liberal is the Christianity that the most straight-laced Anglican and the most rigid of Dissenters might study its pages together and find therein no cause of offence—indeed, such a study might tend to promote union by bringing into prominence the points whereon all Christendom agrees, while omitting reference to the details which have served to detach so many members from the body of Christ. The principal serial story in the volume is "The Little Minister," by Mr. J. M. Barrie—a gentleman of talents so diversified that he is equally at home in writing a tale such as this and in writing a play. The popularity of the story has already been proved, for its first edition in book form was almost sold out before it had actually finished its course as a serial. From one of its chapters our illustration is taken—just the little minister and his gipsy lover. There are other stories, too, by Mrs. Oliphant, by "Carmen Sylva," and others. There are papers biographical and historical; papers on travel, on science, on literature; papers social, philanthropic, religious—and all well up to the high standard set long ago in *Good Words*. The authors are as various as their subjects, and here in the list we find the late Lord Archbishop of York, and Dr. Dale of Birmingham, Mrs. Boyd Carpenter, and Mr. Andrew Lang, Archdeacon Farrar, and Canon Benham. So too with the illustrations, which are alike only in one respect—that all are good.

Much of what has been said of *Good Words* might also be said of the sister publication, the *Sunday Magazine*, for which Mr. Benjamin Waugh is responsible. Here again we find the same broad spirit of Christianity, which includes with equal welcome a high churchman like Canon Scott Holland, and Mr. Hugh Price Hughes. The principal serial is "Godiva Durleigh," by Sarah Doudney, and among the other story writers are Mrs. L. T. Meade, Mrs. Molesworth, and Mrs. Boyd Carpenter. The papers on miscellaneous subjects group themselves naturally under similar heads to those of *Good Words*, but the "Sunday Evenings with the Children," for which the editor is responsible, form a prominent feature of the *Sunday Magazine*. So too the Biblical papers, critical and practical, form an important division of the contents of the periodical intended more particularly for Sunday reading, and these are gathered from every variety of source. The illustrations—notably the portraits and the pictures of scenes described in the articles—are beautifully executed, and the binding and general get up of both volumes are excellent.

THE BLUE POETRY BOOK.*

Collections of poetry for the young are not so easy to hit upon as many would suppose. What is childish is not necessarily admired by children. Rather the other way. Such well-intentioned productions as Jane and Ann Taylor's "Original Poems" or the nursery lyrics contained in the "Daisy and the Cowslip" are more likely to be appreciated at fifty than at seven years of age. Even the touching lines relating to childhood and infancy that Blake, and Hood, and Wordsworth have left us are not really valued till childhood has long been left behind, and sentiment and some sadness colour the vista through which we look back at the irrevocable past. Feelings of this kind have guided Mr. Andrew Lang in the anthology now issued—in every respect an admirable one. He has not hesitated to put into his youthful readers' hands much that they may not wholly understand, or perhaps understand without being able to explain: stirring narrative verse, notable passages kindling the imagination and fancy, or poetic creations, all sound and colour, such as the sonorous though faulty refrains and repetitions by Edgar Allan Poe. "The child," remarks the editor, "understands far more than we give him credit for, but nothing that can harm him. The half understanding of it, too, the sense of a margin beyond, as in a wood of unknown glades, is great part of a child's pleasure in reading." Of the poets chosen by Mr. Lang it will be observed that a large proportion are Scottish. Campbell's vigorous pieces, the lyrics of Scott and the songs of Burns and Hogg, and selections from the Border Minstrelsy fill a considerable portion of the volume. Besides Poe, Longfellow figures chiefly in the verse borrowed from America, while the English contingent is chiefly represented by Shakespeare, Milton, Cowper, and Byron. In the way of illustration, Messrs. Ford and Speed have done their best to embellish the volume with appropriate designs. The picture of "Proud Maisie" in Scott's ballad of that name is given here as an example. The illustrations to "Christabel," Macaulay's "Naseby," and Shelley's "Arethusa," also deserve special mention. The book is very properly bound in true cerulean, and Orpheus with his lute is emblasoned in gold upon the cover.



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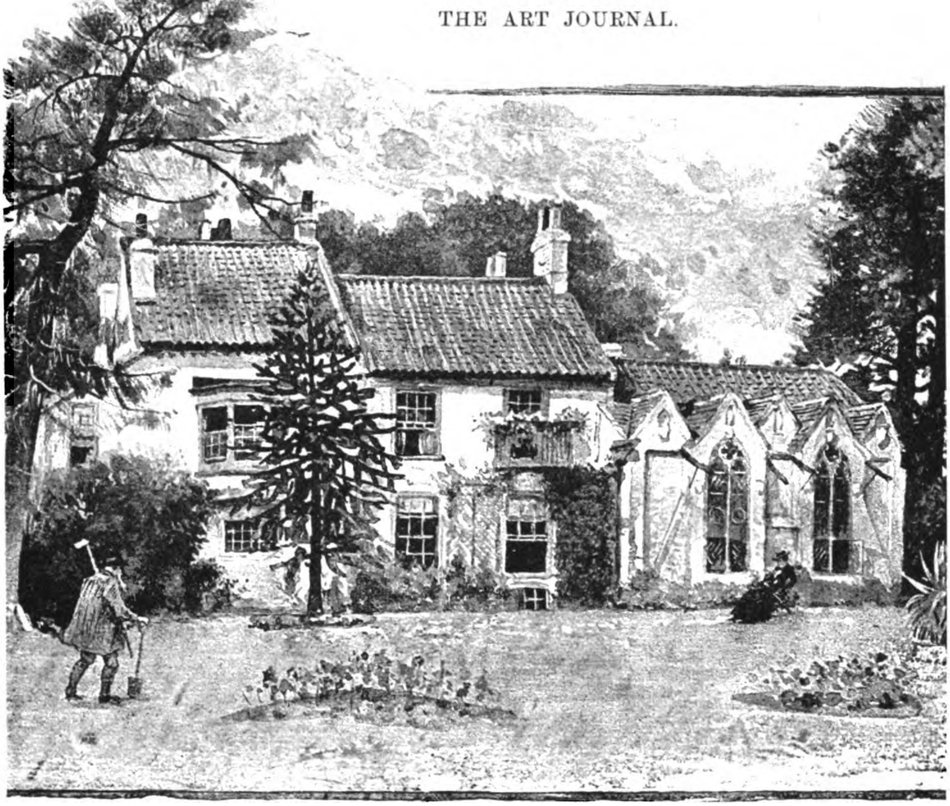
* *The Blue Poetry Book.* Edited by Andrew Lang. Illustrated by H. J. Ford and L. Speed. (Longmans & Co.)


THE ART JOURNAL.

SOMERSBY RECTORY, THE BIRTHPLACE OF LORD TENNYSON.

THE old saying anent the shortness of life and the durability of art is too hackneyed to bear quotation, yet it remains as true as ever. And—to apply the general to the particular—it may safely be averred that the nominally ephemeral productions of *The Art Journal*, another volume of which has just been issued by Messrs. Virtue & Co., will endure for longer than most of the readers who have received them for the first time in periodical form. It sounds trite to say that they are worthy of a more permanent form than that accorded to them in the pages of a periodical publication, yet it is difficult otherwise to express the fact that these delicate pictures are deserving of the honour and glory of so many square feet of glass and lengths of moulding. And even so, the major part of the volume remains untouched. What shall we say, for instance, of the articles upon more or less purely local subjects, such as that which deals with the childhood of Lord Tennyson, from which we reproduce one single illustration? And even this picture of Somersby Rectory—the birthplace of the Poet Laureate—is not here fully given, simply because the size of the page of the Christmas number of the BOOKSELLER prevents us from giving exactly a reproduction of its length, breadth, height, and daintiness. This is, moreover, but one article, chosen at random, as it were, out of a host of others dealing in celebrated localities and people. The "Homes of England" form a series of their own, and often as the beauty of these mansions—growing rarer, be it remembered, year by year—has been illustrated and demonstrated before, it has never been more brought home (the word is used advisedly) than in this present volume. The private and public art collections are not forgotten, and such sketches as that of "Venice from the Lagoon," which appeared in the November number, should be sufficient to indicate that, while the unnumbered beauties of our own isles are not forgotten, those of lands outside the borders of the Empire whereon the sun never sets are borne in mind. Of the letterpress it is only necessary to say that it is written by men and women who know by personal contact the people and countries whereof they speak, and of the production of the whole—speaking from the purely technical standpoint—it is impossible to say too much.

THE ART ANNUAL FOR 1891. By W. Armstrong.—The Christmas number of *The Art Journal*, which forms "The Art Annual for 1891," deals as usual with the life and habitudes of one particular artist of note. This year the subject is the life and work of Mr. Briton Riviere, a Royal Academician whose work is almost more popular than that of any of his colleagues. And in Mr. Armstrong the great painter has found, not merely a sympathetic biographer, but one who is qualified to speak as an authority of the work that he has to describe.

SEAS AND LANDS.*

THE letters descriptive of his tour round the world which will be remembered by readers of the *Daily Telegraph*, the author now reprints in the shape of a gaily-decorated book. The greater part of it, by far, is taken up with Sir E. Arnold's twelve-months' residence in Japan—the land of the Chrysanthemum and of the Rising Sun! That country of the politest of people, of cleanliness unapproachable, of perfect taste, and of unvarying good humour has never been brought home to us so vividly as in a mirror—as in the picture which the author has drawn in these pages. Sir Edwin Arnold's presence as a foreigner in Japan was only just tolerated—so rigid even now are the regulations of the government in this respect. In order to be able to reside in Tokio, the official capital, it was necessary that he should formally figure as part of his landlord's household—the separate establishment of a foreigner without such qualifying explanation being forbidden. So he became the tutor of his host's daughter, of whom a portrait is given in the book, and who might, facially speaking, easily pass for an European girl, only that she is far prettier than the average girl that you would meet in the streets either in London or Berlin. Lodged in a private residence of his own, possessing an ample and beautiful garden attached to it, Sir E. Arnold's lot during his year's sojourn in Japan was one very naturally to be envied. The opportunities enjoyed of seeing and recording the peculiarities of the every-day domestic life of this interesting people were thus abundantly provided. Nor did the keen-eyed observer waste his time. All manner of details of manner, and custom, and fashion, are noted by him, even to such minutiæ as the various actions performed by a Japanese lady on waking in the morning and the particulars of her toilet. Certainly there is something very captivating in the photographs of the native ladies and women that are scattered in copious profusion throughout the book! At first sight they seem so many sisters, whether *grande dame*, or dancing girl, or hotel waitress, or country-maiden. But a distinction is noticeable on nearer examination, though, whatever be the grade, there is the same natural grace and taste observable in the dress, and the same invariable masses of glossy hair of the jettiest hue. The Emperor, Sir Edwin was fortunate enough to see quite closely more than once. He was twice honoured with an Imperial invitation, the second time on the occasion of the Chrysanthemum Festival when the Mikado gave a Garden Party. The Imperial presence is described as austere and ill-looking: "a Mikado of the past who is obliged to bow before the too prevailing present, but who nevertheless keeps his soul apart in the stern society of his ancestors and with the far-off company of the Shinto gods."

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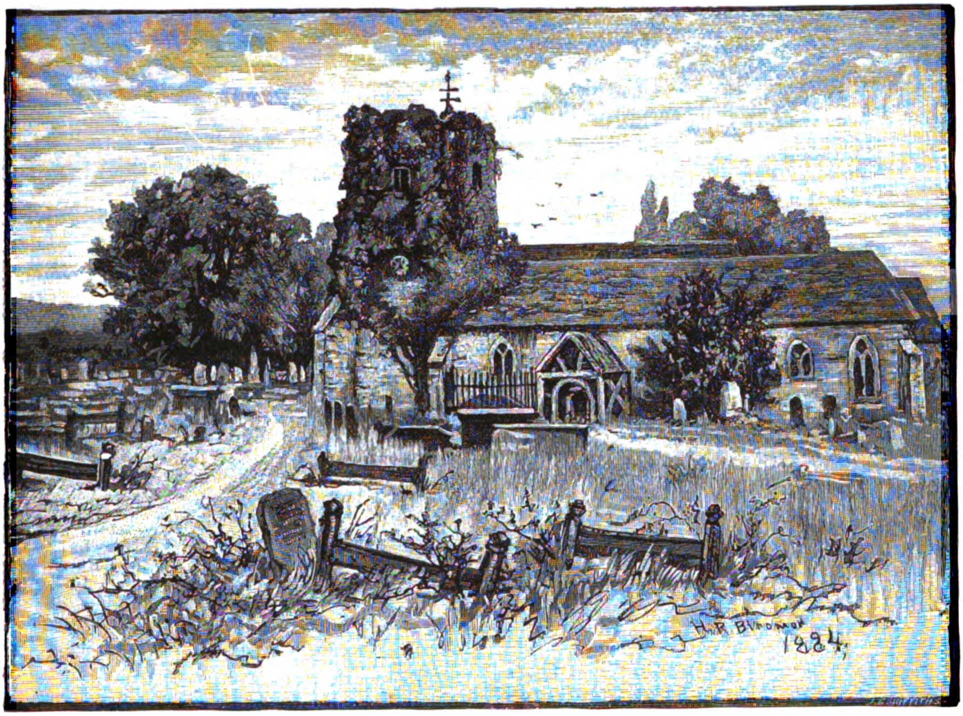
* *Seas and Lands.* By Sir E. Arnold, K.C.I.E. With Illustrations. (Longmans & Co.)

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE.



COOKHAM CHURCH.

THE present volume of the *English Illustrated Magazine*, published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. is a model of literary excellence and artistic perfection. As usual its contents are admirably balanced—there is fiction for those who like it, serious instructive papers and delightful sketches of people and places for others, while the illustrations are, apart from their beauty, commendable in that they really illustrate the text, and are not merely dragged in lamely as excuses for enlivening a page. Indeed the volume is above all things artistic, for every branch of art finds a home within its covers. Mr. F. Marion Crawford's story, "The Witch of Prague," is the principal serial in the volume, but there are many shorter stories by writers of equally high reputation. Among the more miscellaneous articles it is hard to select any for special mention. There are daintily illustrated sketches of English places noted for their picturesqueness, such as Cookham, for instance, from the paper on which we are enabled to reproduce one illustration just to indicate the beauty of the others; there are charming articles on bookbinding and other handicrafts, on cabs and cabdrivers, on a holiday in South Africa, on bushlife in Australia, and a hundred other subjects. The finish of the whole is as perfect as ever, even to the minutest detail.

Barracks, Bivouacs, and Battles. By Archibald Forbes. (Macmillan & Co.)—This is a volume of pieces of various kinds, collected by Mr. Archibald Forbes from his own writings and now re-printed together. They have been gathered from various periodicals, and deal with incidents of battle and bivouac told as only Mr. Forbes can tell such. "The fate of Nana Sahib's Englishman" is one of the best stories in the book, though not one of the longest, but there is not a dull page all through.

Sermons out of Church. By the author of "John Halifax Gentleman." (Macmillan & Co.)—This volume has now been added to the uniform edition of Mrs. Craik's works, and the "Sermons out of Church" will no doubt be widely welcomed even though some readers will still think, perhaps, that the authoress was "very hard on men," though some of her severest remarks were modified by her when the second edition of the book came out. As she tersely put it "we all need mending, and perhaps the worst we ought ever to say of one another is 'God mend us all.'"

A Teacher of the Violin, and other Tales. By J. H. Shorthouse. (Macmillan & Co.)—Whatever Mr. Shorthouse writes has at least one merit—that of being readable. And these short stories, which have many other merits, are eminently readable. They have all seen the light before, and this new edition is a proof of their deserved popularity.

P's and Q's; and ***Lucy's Wonderful Globe.*** By Charlotte M. Yonge. (Macmillan & Co.)—These two stories are now bound up in a single volume, and have been added to Messrs. Macmillan and Company's admirable cheap uniform edition of Miss Yonge's Works. "P's and Q's" is one of the most delightful stories that Miss Yonge ever wrote, and its difficulties are got over in so clever a way that one hardly realises the art that is used. And "Lucy's Wonderful Globe" is nearly as charming a tale.

MESSRS. NELSON & SONS' NEW BOOKS.

AS in other years Messrs. Nelson & Sons have issued a number of new Christmas books. And—also as in other years—these books are handsomely bound, with plenty of excellent illustrations and much evidence of care in production. Most of the principal tales are again founded upon historical incidents, and readers of the books previously issued by Messrs. Nelson know how the firm excels in this branch of literature. The tales are by standard authors, and every one has a useful moral lesson underlying it, while care has been taken to make the books valuable, as safe guides for those who regard them as teachers of history.

The Church and the King. By Evelyn Everett Green.—This story, like several others of considerable merit issued this year, deals with the times of King Henry VIII., the historical accuracy of the setting being studied with that care for which the authoress has long since become known. The tale itself deals with the incidents that led up to the Pilgrimage of Grace, and, briefly, with some of the incidents of the pilgrimage itself, and serves at least to show how false are the generally received notions as to the condition of the religious houses in the land. Its plot is full of stirring incident, and once begun, it is difficult to put the book down.

The Iron Chain and the Golden. By A. L. O. E., is one of those delightful tales that this popular authoress can write so well. Its hero is a Saxon priest who has, living in Norman times, incurred ecclesiastical censure from taking a wife—the golden chain of matrimony—and for declining to be bound in many respects by the iron chain of the Pope of Rome. The Council of Westminster formally forbids ecclesiastics to marry, and Alphege the married priest is tried and condemned for heresy. Much of the book deals with his persecution, but his wife comes to his rescue at last, and the tale ends happily.

The Lord of Dynevor. By Evelyn Everett Green, is another historical novel, the plot of which is concerned with the reign and times of King Edward I. The story is Welsh in its setting, and much use is made of the hatred of the Welsh towards their English foes. The revolt of David and Llewellyn in North Wales, which fills the third part of the story is described with great power; and the tale ends with the exercise of the king's clemency and wedding-bells. A certain licence has been taken with the history of the heroes, but in the main the story is historically true.

In the Wars of the Roses is yet another historical story by Evelyn Everett Green, which culminates in the fight of Tewkesbury, and the foul murder that stained the victor's laurels, afterwards so amply avenged upon the field of Bosworth. It deals chiefly with the friendship of Paul Stukely for the murdered prince of the House of Lancaster, and is told in masterly fashion.

The Drifting Island. By Walter Wentworth.—This is a capital story of adventure for boys, the heroes of which—Bob Laurie and Ted Leslie—are old friends to many readers. The boys find a black slave on a deserted hulk, who turns out to be a member of the tribe in Central Africa, described in the earlier volume. Forthwith an expedition is planned to rescue the tribe from the clutches of the Congo slave-hunters, and with this expedition the story deals. The adventures are marvellous enough to suit the most adventurous mind, and the book is full of healthy excitement.

Birds and Flowers. By Mary Howitt. Illustrated by Giacomelli.—A new edition of this charming book of poems, illustrated by the skilled hand of one of the greatest artists in this particular class of work, is sure to be widely welcomed. The poems are, as the author says, "wild flowers by the wayside"—redolent of Nature in her every mood, and the illustrations are from the pencil of one who knew and loved Nature as well as the poetess herself.

Waiting and Serving. By Maude M. Butler.

Sweet William. By Marguerite Bouvet.

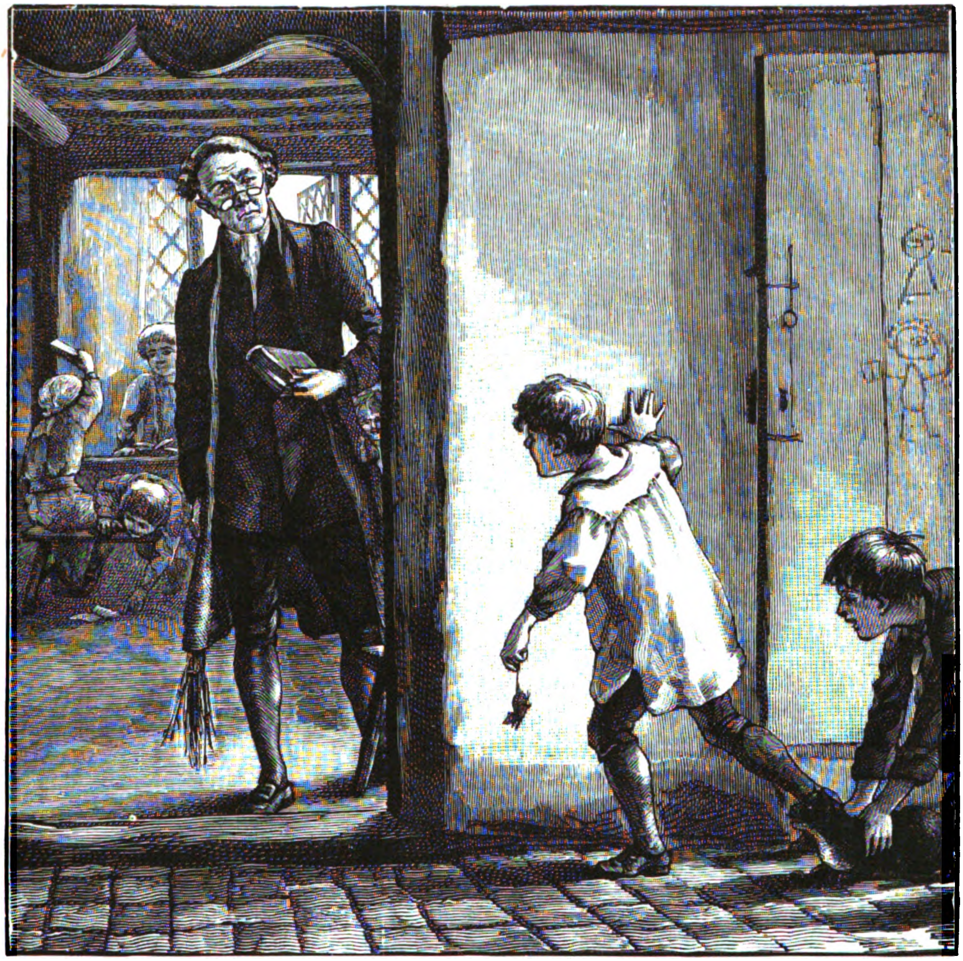
These two prettily got-up prize books are uniform in size and style. The first is a charming tale of certain children and their uncle—"the Major." Poor little Charlie—"the Major's little sentinel"—has had a bad fall, but during his illness he is very brave and learns to accept his uncle's motto that "they also serve who only stand and wait."

The second tale is one of early times in Normandy, and of the castle of Mount St. Michael, where lived a wicked duke who persecuted little "Sweet William." The history of this poor little nobleman and his lovely cousin, the Lady Constance, form the groundwork of the story, which is very prettily told.

A Thorny Way. By Mary Bradford Whiting.—This is a particularly well-written story for girls, its principal heroine (and most unpleasant character) being the self-sufficient elder daughter of a vicar who has come into a fortune, resigned, and lives in his old parish. The new vicar is a hard-working priest from the East End, whose life his predecessor's daughter at once and systematically proceeds to render unendurable. The new vicar's daughter, and the younger daughter of the other, are charming girls.

Lady Hymn-writers. By Mrs. E. R. Pitman.—Most people who are not professed hymnologists will be at once grateful for and surprised by this most interesting volume. Grateful for the mass of information it contains, and surprised at discovering that we owe so much to lady hymn-writers. As the writer points out, women have more often than men the fervour of devotion, the poetic feeling—what one feels inclined to term the "religiosity," as distinguished from the deeper religion—that helps a writer to turn out a decent hymn. This perhaps accounts for the multitude of feminine hymn-writers.

THE BOY'S OWN ANNUAL.



The volume before us, issued by the Religious Tract Society is to the full as deserving of praise as its predecessors. There is a strong healthy tone about its contents that its readers cannot but appreciate—a tone of downright manly muscular Christianity such as Kingsley or Arnold would have loved. Fiction as usual occupies a considerable part of the volume, the opening serials being "George Freeborn, Sailor, Exile, and First Parson of Aurora Island," a capital story of adventure from the pen of the Rev. A. Baker, who as a navy chaplain has himself seen a good deal of the world, and "A Coral Prison; or, the Boy Hermits of the Indian Ocean," by David Ker, a tale of the Maldive Islands. Mr. Ascott R. Hope has written a charming story of school life "Taffy; or, the Tale of a Grouse," and another delightful serial is "The Tale of a Pig." These are but two or three of the many serial stories in the volume, which if collected and bound up into separate books would form a very decent nucleus for a boy's library. All the authors are writers of the first rank in this department of literature, and it is worth remarking that the short tales are just as excellent as the serials. The practical articles are numerous and seem to be written so that their instructions are really sufficient for the manufacture of the articles described. The "Answers to Correspondents" form a most valuable feature. The get-up of the volume is most attractive, and the coloured plates are admirably executed.

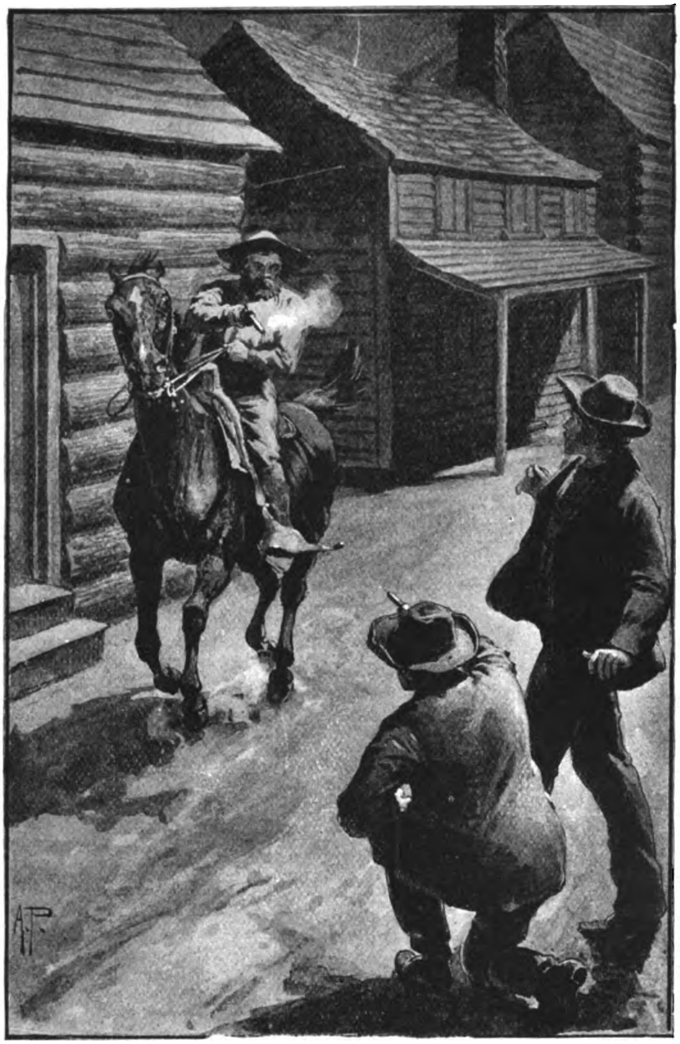
MESSRS. BLACKIE & SON'S BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG.

MESSRS. BLACKIE & SON'S are as usual well to the front in the ranks of those publishers who year by year issue books expressly written for young readers by writers whose position in the literary world is already registered on the rolls of fame. Miss Sarah Tytler, Mr. G. Manville Fenn and Mr. G. A. Henty are among those who have helped to furnish books issued by Messrs. Blackie & Son this year, the last named as usual coming out strongly in the historical novel department. The get up of all the books, small as well as great, is excellent, and the illustrations are really artistic.

Redskin and Cowboy. By G. A. Henty.—To lend fresh interest to a "Tale of the Western Plain," is not exactly an easy task, but we will venture to say that a jury of boys would decide that Mr. Henty has done so on this occasion. They would however, no doubt, be strongly prejudiced in his favour from long and satisfactory previous acquaintance. All kinds of adventures attend Hugh Tunstall's career as a cowboy, the sporting and fighting incidents, exciting as they are, being by no means too highly coloured. As commonly happens in books of this kind the hero's wanderings have been caused by a family quarrel, but in the last pages we are told that young Tunstall marries and "lives happily ever after." The illustrations are by Mr. Alfred Pearse.

The Pilots of Pomona. By Robert Leighton.—This story of the Orkney Islands breathes of the sea and those who live by and on it. Young Halcro Ericson recounts his own adventures with becoming simplicity and modesty. The finding of a rich hidden treasure, a lonely Arctic voyage, and a sensational trial for murder are included in the narrative to which the proper local colour is imparted by the hand of an expert. All Halcro's difficulties are overcome and end with his union to Thora.

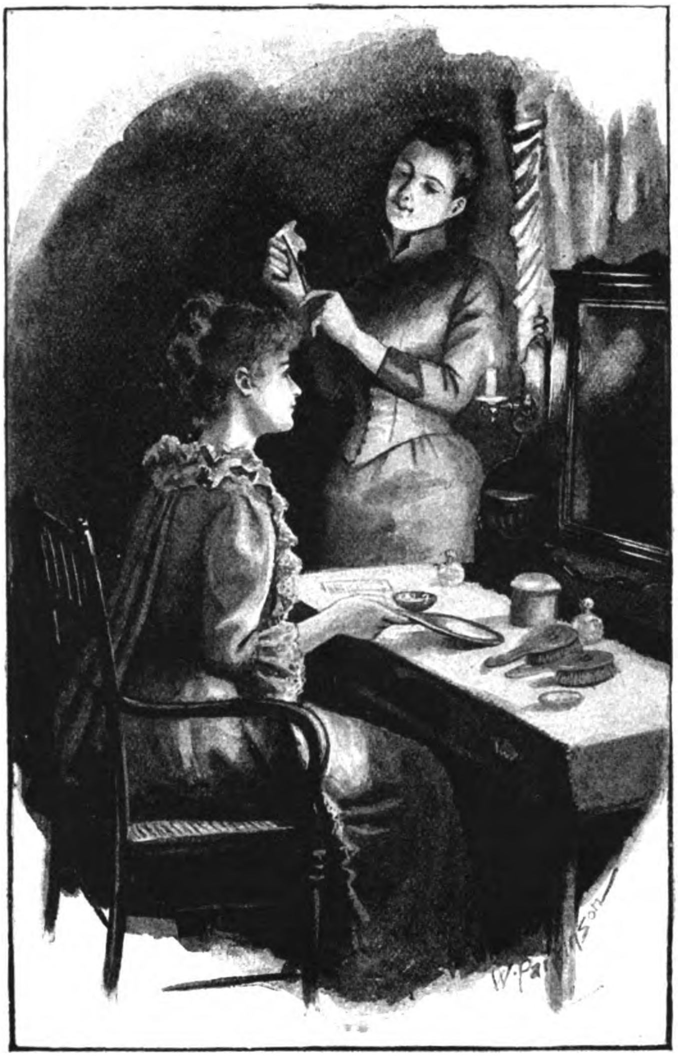
Sir Joshua Reynolds, and Children's Portraitures in England.—The four parts of this handsome volume constitute an addition to Vere Foster's "Water-Colour Series." The coloured plates and monotint engravings given are reproductions in the most finished style of celebrated pictures by Gainsborough, Romney, Lawrence, Sant, and Millais, as well as Reynolds. Mr. Loftie furnishes the explanatory letterpress, whilst the practical hints for painting are by Mr. W. J. Loftie. The leading idea of the collection is a most happy one, and the owners of the pictures and copyright engravings reproduced deserve hearty thanks for the facilities they have afforded the publishers.



FROM "REDSKIN AND COWBOY."

Held fast for England: A Tale of the Siege of Gibraltar. By G. A. Henty.—The siege of the English citadel in Spain by the united powers of that country and France towards the close of the eighteenth century, afforded our countrymen an opportunity for that dogged resolution and endurance under suffering which rank among their chief gifts. The investments of Sebastopol and Paris scarcely surpass it in historical and military importance. Mr. Henty's youthful hero bears himself manfully throughout the stirring episodes by sea and land which form the staple of the tale, and ends by marrying a young lady whose acquaintance he made during the famous siege.

Three Bright Girls. By Annie E. Armstrong.—Inasmuch as each of Miss Armstrong's lovable heroines makes a satisfactory match, young lady readers will not be able to complain of the absence of sentimental interest in the book. Before, however, the three reach the matrimonial goal they are seen reduced from a state of affluence and comfort to one of privation. Their spirit and bright good temper are not affected by the change, and poetical justice clearly requires their ultimate happiness. Mr. W. Parkinson's illustrations are appropriately graceful.



FROM "THREE BRIGHT GIRLS."

Silas Verney. By Edgar Pickering.—The period of Mr. Pickering's story is that of Charles II., one that will never lose its interest for boy readers. He reproduces the characteristics of the time graphically and well. The action passes from England to Holland and back again to England, the perils and escapes of the hero being vigorously sensational. In the first chapters it is shown how Silas Verney's grandfather is foully murdered, but the old man's true will is found at last, and Silas comes into possession of Lambourne Grange, the crime of his villanous cousin meeting with a terrible retribution.

Brownsmith's Boy, by G. Manville Fenn; *The Wigwam and the War-path,* by Ascott R. Hope; *Girl Neighbours,* by Sarah Tytler; *The Rover's Secret,* by Harry Collingwood; and, *Perseverance Island,* by Douglas Frazar — are new and cheaper editions of stories whose popularity is well established. The bindings are most attractive, and the quality of the printing and illustrations leaves nothing to be desired.

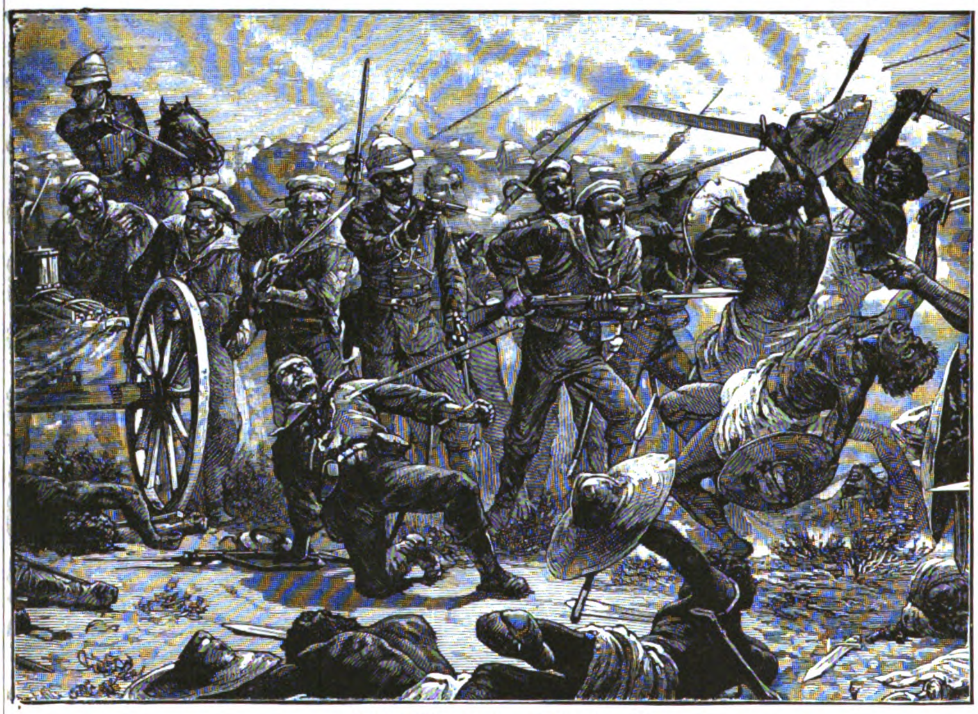
Stimson's Reef. By C. J. Hyne.—The story of a quest of a buccaneer's gold clearly possesses infinite possibilities in the way of adventurous incident. Mr. Hyne accordingly treats his readers to an account of a gale in the Atlantic, two or three fights with Indians, and the discovery of the treasure which was the original cause of the cruise of the "Yapeek." This is a book full of dash and go, and one which we are sure every properly constituted boy will pronounce "jolly" in the extreme.

Gladys Anstruther. By Louisa Thompson.—The sub-title of Miss Thompson's story is "The Young Stepmother," and the tale lingers upon the way the love of Sir Edwin Anstruther and his wife is tried by incidents in which the two little girl heroines—one amiable and good, and the other distinctly naughty—are concerned. The loss of Gladys and her discovery as the "Lily Queen" at a theatre are told with a great deal of pathos, and the whole story is full of interest.

Marian; or, The Abbey Grange. By Annie E. Armstrong.—A well-written story of middle-class life. Marian is the eldest girl of the Somerville family, and her sterling qualities of courage and patience are brought into prominent relief when she and her sister and brother are reduced to a condition of poverty.

The "bad man" of the book is an exceedingly unpleasant "Cousin James," who profits by the fact of the head of the Somervilles having omitted to sign his last will. However, he repents at last, and dies after putting the young Somervilles once more in possession of their old home.

The Dash for Khartoum. By G. A. Henty.—Mr. Henty is dealing with quite modern history in telling the story of the attempt to relieve Gordon at Khartoum, but better material for his pen he could scarcely have found throughout the annals of warfare. He does it every justice and produces a book containing solid information as well as a fictional interest which carries the reader with it to the end. Messrs. Joseph Nash, R.I., and John Schönberg supply the illustrations.



FROM "THE DASH FOR KHARTOUM."

The Lonely Pyramid. By J. H. Yoxall.—The adventures of Roy Lefevre and the quaintly amusing negro, Lillywhite, in the Soudan whilst endeavouring to discover the whereabouts of Roy's father, who, according to Lillywhite, has been "spirited away," have something more than a suggestion of Ryder Haggard colouring about them. Major Lefevre is found, and the leading characters undergo many strange chances at the "Lonely Pyramid of the Lost Oasis," which, we are told, will henceforth for ever "keep its mystery and majesty inviolate, unimpaired; the skeleton Isis having claimed her last victim." The Mahdi is introduced into the story, of which the date is given as 1884.

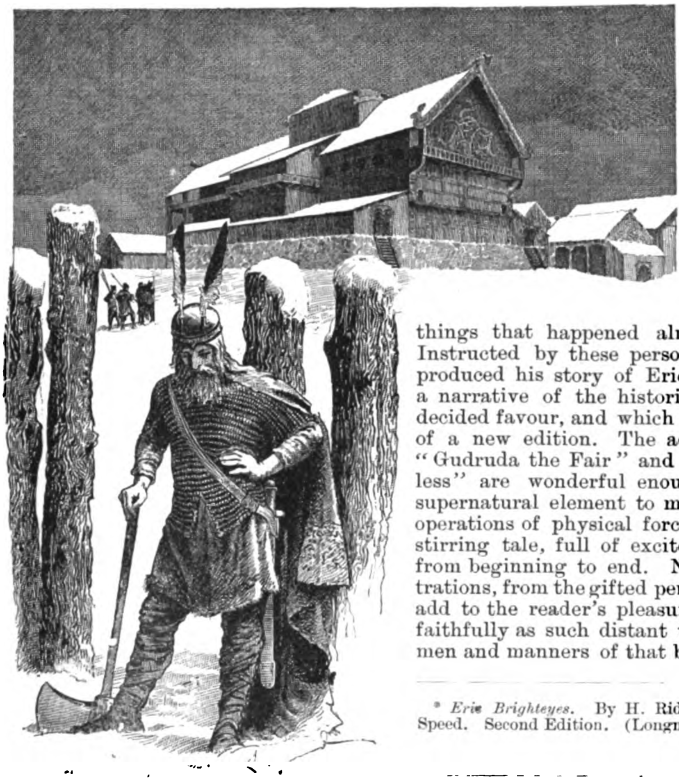
Bab; or, The Triumph of Unselfishness. By Ismay Thorn.—Bab and Gladys are cousins. Bab is the nice child of the pair, Gladys having been spoilt and rendered selfish. There are, of course, disagreements and unhappiness between the two, but the sweeter and more steadfast nature at last prevails, and Bab's example works a thorough reformation in Gladys. The story is told in a fascinating way, and enforces a lesson which the young cannot be taught too soon.

Climbing the Hill, by Annie L. Swan; and, *Brave and True*, by Gregson Gow.—Both these books are collections of short tales for little readers. They are of a healthy tone, and are written with appropriate simplicity.

Littlebourne Lock, by F. Bayford Harrison; *Wild Meg and Wee Dickie*, by Mary E. Ropes; and, *Grannie*, by Elizabeth J. Lysaght.—The first two of these stories are principally concerned with the poor children of London, who, Mr. Harrison thinks, might often be regenerated by means of a country life. The third is a tale of the loving care of a grandmother. All are of unimpeachable tone and should interest as well as profit those to whom they are addressed.

A Parliament of Pickles, by Cora Langton; *Sharp Tommy*, by Elizabeth J. Lysaght; *The Strange Adventures of Nell, Edie, and Toby*, by Geraldine Mockler; *Kitty Carroll*, by L. E. Tiddeman; and, *A Joke for a Picnic*, by W. L. Rooper.—These stories are slighter than the three just mentioned, and nothing more need be said of them than that they form capital little children's books. So much as this, at least, might be said of a good many of the books already noticed in detail—the whole of the books, indeed, issued by Messrs. Blackie & Sons to meet the demand for seasonable literature for young readers—that it would puzzle the keenest of critics to name one, more than its fellows, suited for children of any particular age from five to fifteen.

ERIC BRIGHTEYES.*



Not everyone is qualified to unfold the buried mysteries of Icelandic and Norse Saga. Mr. Rider Haggard has, however, enjoyed unusual opportunities for exploring and following up the tales of the old world skald upon the actual ground where the scenes and incidents related took place. He has even been able to verify by actual discovery the truth of accounts of things that happened almost a millennium since. Instructed by these personal researches the author produced his story of Eric, the son of Thorgrimur, a narrative of the historical kind which has found decided favour, and which now returns in the shape of a new edition. The adventures of the hero of "Gudruda the Fair" and of "Swanbild the Fatherless" are wonderful enough, even if we trace the supernatural element to mere natural magic, and the operations of physical forces. Anyhow, they make a stirring tale, full of excitement, incident, and *élan*, from beginning to end. No less than fifty-one illustrations, from the gifted pencil of Mr. Lancelot Speed, add to the reader's pleasure, and bring before us as faithfully as such distant times can be imagined, the men and manners of that byegone age.

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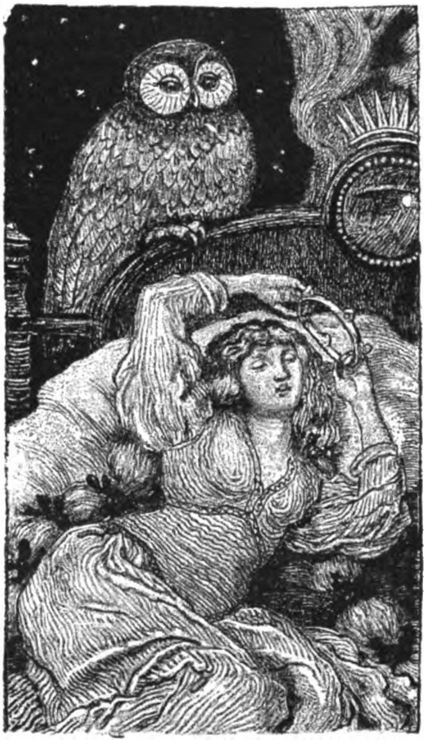
* *Eric Brighteyes.* By H. Rider Haggard. Illustrated by L. Speed. Second Edition. (Longmans & Co.)

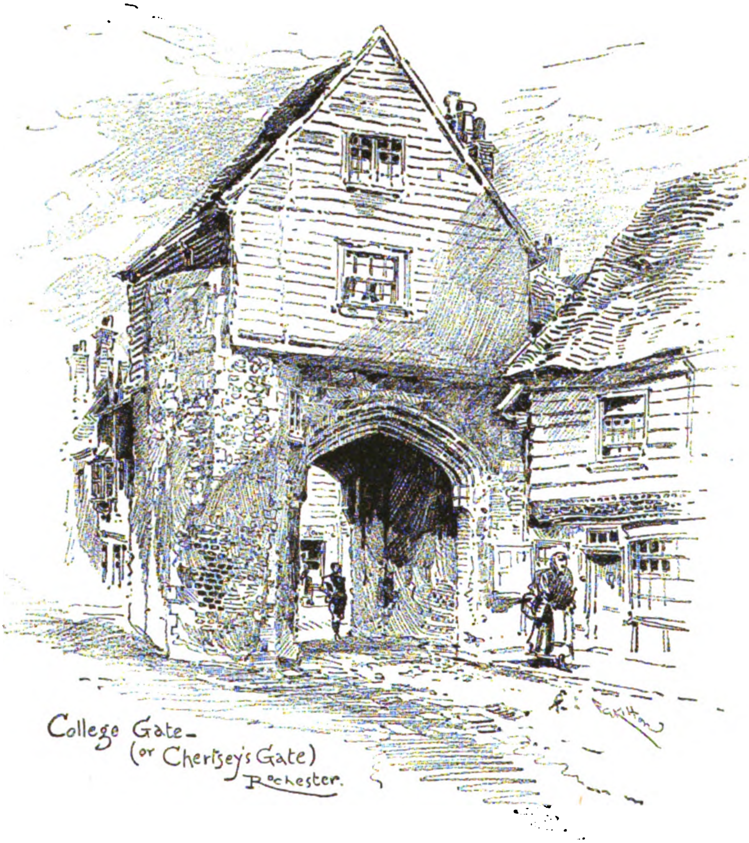
THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY.

Quite the most appropriate of gifts for a maiden of tender years. There are as yet four of this series published. "The Brown Owl," by Mr. Hueffer, is the good genius and protector of a lovely princess, Ismara by name; bequeathed her as his most treasured possession by her father, King Jutafernes, and right faithfully does the Wise Owl discharge his guardianship. The two illustrations by Mr. Madox Browne deserve notice. A "China Cup" may perhaps suggest the story which it relates, being in short the career of the bit of porcelain in question, followed by a number of shorter tales, all taken from the Russian of Felix Volkhovsky, and illustrated by Malischoff. Mrs. Edmunds' version of "Stories from Fairyland," by Georges Drosines, present the youthful reader with a set of fables from modern Greece. With the exception of the opening tale, "The Three Gifts," the book consists of the adventures and conversations of bird and beast and tree—quite after the old Æsop model, and exceedingly amusing. The altruistic devotion of the grasshopper and the cricket, and the conceit of the rook and the parrot will be appreciated in the funny way they are told by others than children. Mr. Riley's drawings help to make the volume even more bright than it is already. The last instalment of this "Library" just issued relates "The Adventures of Pinocchio; or, The Story of a Puppet"—an inviting title in itself. It is translated from the Italian of C. Collodi by Mr. M. A. Murray.



A TRAMP IN DICKENS-LAND.*

The lover of Dickens—and who is not?—would have a wide field of travel opened before him, had he to reconnoitre all the localities individually described by the great novelist. *Little Dorritt* takes us to Marseilles, *Martin Chuzzlewit* to America, *A Tale of Two Cities* to Paris. *Nicholas Nickleby* introduces the reader to Yorkshire, *Bleak House* to Lincolnshire, and *David Copperfield* to Norfolk; while the immortal and evergreen Mr. Pickwick leads one a dance over a large part of England. But if one particular district has to be fixed upon as the land of Dickens, and the country upon which he drew most largely for the scenery and surroundings of his novels, there can be no doubt that Rochester and its neighbourhood hold a clear pre-eminence over other parts. Indeed, if we add to this particular district what Dickens borrowed from London, it will be found that not only the works of his that have been specified, but every one of his published writings, are largely indebted for their local setting to places and buildings belonging to one or other of these two Dickensian centres. How greatly the interest and amusement of the reader is increased by acquaintance with the localities occurring in his author every one will allow. This is the case with any writer, be he never so humble. But with Dickens and his own inimitable style of description, it becomes almost a revelation to be able to view the actual spots and scenes that supplied material for his pen. Inspired with these ideas, Mr. Hughes in wet 1888 made the "tramp" recorded in these pages. It lasted, so we are assured, but seven days, but has expanded in its literary record into the dimensions of a volume of ample size. A preliminary walk in London makes the round of Dickens' various residences in the metropolis and inspects Barnard's and Furnival's Inns, the Temple, Parliament Street, and the public-house where young Copperfield gave his first "magnificent order." And Rochester, as we have already observed, is replete with Dickens' scenery. Its mediæval cathedral has been described by Mr. A. Jingle; Mr. Pickwick has stood upon its bridge. The College Gate, of which we give an illustration, is probably the "Jasper's Gatehouse" in *Edwin Drood*, and Eastgate house, and the Bull Inn, figure under concealed names in more than one of the novels. Further researches take the pilgrim to Chatham, Canterbury and Dover, where if he has time he may discover Miss Betsy Trotwood's cottage on Dover Heights. Mr. Hughes is an agreeable and well-informed cicerone, and with the aid of his artistic collaborator, Mr. Kitton, enables us to realize vividly the various scenes with which, to the mind's eye at least, we have most of us been long familiar.



College Gate_
(or Chertsey's Gate)
Rochester.

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* *A Week's Tramp in Dickens-Land*, together with Personal Reminiscences by W. R. Hughes, F.L.S., with Illustrations by F. G. Kitton and other artists. (Chapman & Hall.)

Grammont's Memoirs, the Boscobel tracts, etc. Revised edition. (Bell & Sons.)—With the additions that have been made to the original volume of 1876, we have now a very complete set of historical papers of the reign of Charles II. These now comprise, first and foremost, the celebrated "Memoirs" of the Comte de Gramont — as the name should be properly spelled—with a biographical sketch of the author, Anthony Hamilton, and the "Notes and Illustrations" from Sir Walter Scott's edition. In the second part of the volume, excluding the king's own account of his escape from Worcester, dedicated by Pepys—already published, will be found some new and important accessions, viz.: the two "Boscobel Tracts," Mr. Whitgreave's version of the "Escape," with extracts from Father Huddlestone's narrative of the same incident, the *Wyndham* story of the king's hiding at Trent, the "White-Ladies" tract, and Colonel Gounter's "Last Act," all relating particulars of His Majesty's successful flight. These two last are now reprinted for the first time since their original publication in the seventeenth century. Father Huddlestone will be remembered as the priest who administered the last sacraments to the king on his deathbed in 1685.

The Poetical Works of Thomas Gray, with Introduction, Life, &c. By John Bradshaw, M.A. (G. Bell & Sons.)—This reprint of Gray's poems—portrait, biography, notes, and all—in excellent type and binding, and for the ridiculously small sum of half-a-crown, adds another to the many debts which students of English literature owe to Messrs. Bell & Sons. The volume is not a large one, but then the quantity of Gray's works is in inverse ratio to their quality. One could have wished that the book had included, even at some cost of bulk, the poet's no less admirable letters. In these pages we have the first of England's "Romanticists," the first to break the classical spell that from Dryden to Johnson controlled with its imperious prescription every outburst of the poetic spirit. Truly a delicious soul! *Comissimum ingenium!* It will be one of the pleasures of the next world to meet Gray, and to speak to him. But it will require some pushing to penetrate into the charmed circle; and in that serene atmosphere pushing and jostling may be unknown.

Handbook of Athletic Sports. Edited by Ernest Bell, M.A. Vol. V. Athletics—Cycling—Skating. With 190 illustrations. (G. Bell & Sons.)—In spite of their unpretending appearance, Messrs. Bell & Sons' "Sports" Library supplies, in the words of the time-honoured formula, a real want. They are complete without being elaborate, and contain an amount of information, practical and to the point, which may be looked for in vain in more expensive publications. It is true, of course, that proficiency in sports of all kinds is to be acquired from practice, not from books. Nevertheless, much well-meaning plodding in practice may entail no little labour and failure, which a few useful hints on the subject would have saved the aspirant to fame. Under the head of "Athletics," specially so-called, there is a useful series of chapters by Mr. H. H. Griffin, of the L.A.C., with contributions from the 100 yards Amateur Champion, Mr. E. H. Pelling, from Mr. Pollock-Hill, the Inter 'Varsity Middle Distance runner, from Mr. Greig, celebrated for his High, Long, and Hurdle-jumping, and other noted athletes of the present day. "Cycling" follows next, with an historical retrospect of hobby-horses, manu-motives, velocipedes, and other such precursors of the modern 'cycle, down to the birth of the bicycle proper (and tricycle) in the year 1866. The development of the machine to its present most approved form is, of course, fully treated. On the subject of "Skating," Mr. Douglas Adams gives us the benefit of a skilled and experienced skater, while Miss Cheetham adds a chapter for ladies. The illustrations and diagrams are, as will be seen, very numerous.

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A Pair of Originals: a Story. By E. Ward. With Illustrations. (Seeley & Co.)—Young people, whether boys or girls, are certain to be pleased with Mrs. Ward's new story. The two little brothers who earn the description given in the book's title are, as we are glad to find, by no means copybook examples of juvenile virtue. They are rather naughty boys, to tell the truth: young pickles, who smash china and turn off gas-metres, and generally make mischief when the mood is on them. But Curly and Bunny have good hearts, for all their prankish ways, and the loving kindness of "Granny"—for they have no mother—and the Christian spirit animating their home at Ladywell Priory, soon correct the childish waywardness and bring out the good points of character. Girls have at a certain age a passion for dolls, but Curly and his brother being of the sterner sex desire something more genuine though of a kindred description. Their ambition—strange to say—is to possess a baby! What is more, they succeed; and for a time are the happy possessors of not one infant but two, whom they have rescued from a miserable gipsy home during an illness which has befallen the Zingaro's family. The pictures are very pretty.

Winifrede's Journal By Emma Marshall. With Illustrations. (Seeley & Co.)—Mrs. Marshall has in more than one instance shewn an aptitude for picturing the past in the novel form, and her seventeenth century tale of Dame Winifrede Carew, is fully equal to her earlier essays of that kind. The particular period chosen is that of 1637-66, thus covering the whole of the Great Rebellion and the Commonwealth, and going well on into the days of the Restoration. Though the Devonshire girl and afterwards matron, Winifrede, must be considered the heroine of the story, the principal figure of history of whom she writes is Joseph Hall, bishop successively of Exeter and Norwich, the poet, satirist, and divine of Charles I.'s reign. In 1641 Hall was translated to Norwich, and in the same year was imprisoned in the Tower with ten other prelates for signing the protest against the Bishops Removal Bill. Other prosecutions followed at the hands of the Puritans; and, dispossessed of his income and episcopal residence, Hall retired to a private house at Heigham, near Norwich, where he died in 1656 in his eighty-third year. This makes the framework of *Winifrede's Journal*; and, told as Mrs. Marshall has told it, the story has the mixture of romance and fact which is sure to please.

The Riviera. By Hugh Macmillan, D.D. New and Revised Edition. Illustrated with numerous engravings. (J. S. Virtue & Co.)—Among the numerous handbooks describing this lovely region, Dr. Hugh Macmillan's work has established itself with well deserved popularity. Its value is attested by the continued demand for it, resulting in the further edition now issued in revised form, with fifty-seven new illustrations. The whole district, from Hyères at the extreme verge of the Western Reviera as far as Spezzia at the southern extremity of the Riviera *di Levante* is represented in this volume, and the additional illustrations now inserted in the text increase greatly its beauty. How is it that the earthquake of four years back receives no mention? One of the most lovely scenes on this coast is the town of Diano Marina, which was then utterly destroyed and rendered uninhabitable—a circumstance which is passed over by the author in silence. An index is greatly wanted.

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A Treatise on Heraldry, British and Foreign, with English and French Glossaries. By John Woodward, F.S.A., and the late G. Burnett, LL.D., Lyon King of Arms. (W. & A. K. Johnston.)—Heraldry to most of us is a sealed book. As well might an uninstructed man be asked to determine the points of latitude and longitude with a sextant, as to "blazon" in correct order the first coat of arms offered to his inspection. Does he know the difference between "per pale" and "per fess?" Can he recognize the "mark of cadency," and is he acquainted with the primary rule that metal is not to be placed upon metal, or colour on colour? The technical phraseology of the science of heraldry has no doubt deterred many from attempting it, but in former days it was considered part of a gentleman's education, and an accomplishment fit for princes. Though it has fallen from its high estate, and practically been relegated to the hands of the silversmith and the coachmaker, yet a knowledge of the subject is always of use, and to the genealogist almost essential. Nothing is more calculated to attract the student of heraldry and, indeed, readers generally, than the magnificent volumes now published by Messrs. Johnston. In the matter of paper and beauty of typography, besides the array of emblazoned coats of arms which accompany the letterpress, the work is a model of typographical production from title-page to colophon. It is generally supposed that coats of arms are of extremely ancient origin. Yet the notion is hardly borne out by facts. The earliest sepulchral monument possessing armorial bearings does not go beyond the thirteenth century. Those appearing on seals go back to the close of the previous century, while the authors of this work deny any date earlier than Henry VIII. for the display of arms on the coins of the realm. This would refer only to silver coins, since it is certain that the gold noble of Edward III. bore on its obverse the royal coat of arms. Even the uninitiated may learn much from a survey of the successive armorial bearings of the English sovereigns. Thus the first Norman kings use only the three lions (or leopards) on their shield. The Plantagenets quarter with the leopards the lilies of France. Richard II. adds the mythical arms of the Confessor: the England-France quarterings being reverted to and adopted until the accession of the Stuarts, when the arms of Scotland and Ireland were introduced into the escutcheon. The arms of Nassau came in with William III., the *horse courant* with the house of Hanover, and so on. The arms of France finally disappeared in 1801. On the curiosities of heraldry, the plain shields, the *armoiries parlantes* or canting arms, and other particular features of the subject we must refer the reader to Messrs. Woodward and Burnett's text, which afford ample scope for research and amusement. It is one of the most handsomely executed works that has appeared this season.

The World-Wide Atlas.—Messrs. W. & A. K. Johnston, have just published under the above title a new atlas, which is a marvel of cheapness and of excellence. Altogether the volume, which has a very tasteful cloth binding, contains one hundred and twelve maps, which are as admirably printed as is usual with Messrs. Johnston's productions. The atlas, moreover, has an extremely full and careful index, and contains several useful plates, such as the flags of all nations, a chart of the time all over the world when it is noon at Greenwich, and so on. But its great strength lies in the number of small inset maps, showing plans of cities, neighbourhoods of especial interest, and districts where the physical features are so complicated that a large scale is necessary to show them fully and clearly. The same idea leads to the inclusion of a very large number of sectional maps, enabling the reader to study districts which in most atlases are more or less neglected. Thus, for instance, there is a map of Italy which amply shows the general features of the country as a whole. On the opposite page, however, we find a small map of the environs of Rome, another of the environs of Naples, another of San Marino, and larger maps of Sicily and Sardinia. The names of the principal cities are always given as written by their own people, with the English form in brackets beneath, thus—"Napoli [Naples]" and so on. The fulness of detail thus obtainable is remarkable, and the utmost care has evidently been taken to include the very latest results of geographical research. The political maps are as excellent as those giving the physical features, and a valuable introduction, dealing with the principal geographical discoveries and political territorial changes of the century, has been written by Mr. Scott Keltie, Librarian to the Royal Geographical Society.

The Royal Atlas.—Messrs. W. & A. K. Johnston have now published two parts of their new serial issue of "The Royal Atlas," which for the first time is being published in this form. Of the merits of the atlas itself it is quite unnecessary to speak at length, for its reputation is already so great that a multitude of people who have been hitherto unable to buy it because of the price at which the volumes are sold, will gratefully avail themselves of this opportunity of acquiring so unique a work at a moderate cost. Apart from the excellence of the production as a whole, it has a strong recommendation in the fact that it is always kept most carefully up to date. The moment a political change occurs in the boundaries of any country, the old map is altered to meet the new requirements, and, in the present issue, though yet in its infancy, several details have been revised in such matters as roads and railways. The quality of the engraving is too well known to need comment, and the printing is as good as ever Messrs. W. & A. K. Johnston can make it. The indexes and inset maps are exceedingly full and accurate, and the completeness of detail in every department is one of the most characteristic features of the whole work.

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The British Seas. Picturesque notes by W. Clark Russell and other writers. Illustrated. (Seeley & Co.)—A more beautiful gift-book, or a book of more truly patriotic character, could hardly be found than this. The silver sea which serves us "in the office of a wall," is at once our natural and national distinction. Our poets have sung its praises, and our painters—as witness the array of illustrations contained in this volume—have depicted its varied moods of storm and calm, of frowning cloud and smile of sunlight. To describe it in the imagery of prose is a rarer gift, and successful writing of this kind seems, at the present moment, to be the property of a single individual. As we have our "only General," so we have our only marine author, and his name is Mr. W. C. Russell. Under his charge—pilotage, perhaps, would be the proper word here—the reader is taken round our southern coast from the East India Docks and Gravesend, the "sea-gate of London," as far west as Plymouth, "that Sydney Bay in little;" noting between these extremities such contrasts as the "quaint, salt, seething, blowing, and desperately cold old town of Deal," and Cowes "the sweetest, most toy-like, most charming, memory-haunting spot in Great Britain." The Isle of Wight is, however, more particularly treated by Mr. Cagney; while Mr. Hamerton, as a Lancashire man, takes in hand St. George's Channel; Messrs. A. J. Church and Purves following our northern shores and round to Newcastle, where Mr. Russell takes the helm—we beg pardon, the pen—once more. Over fifty etchings and engravings adorn the volume, including a couple of plates engraved by Mr. A. Dawson after Turner, engravings after H. Macallum and Hook by the same artist, two etchings and a photogravure of Mr. Colin Hunter's work, beside other plates. The wood-cuts are hardly less pleasing. Colman's drawing of the Mumbles, Girtin's Flint Castle, and several examples of David Cox and Collins may be mentioned as evidence to the artistic character of the volume. Nor should the more recent work of Mr. Pennell's be omitted, who figures largely among the illustrations, particularly as regards Scottish shore subjects.

The Burning of Rome: a story of Nero's Days. By the Rev. A. J. Church, M.A., with sixteen illustrations. (Seeley & Co.)—The last four years of Nero's reign are taken as the time of Mr. Church's last tale from classical history. The principal events of that tragic period—the conflagration of Rome and the first persecution of the Christians, the Pisonian conspiracy, the murders of Lucan, Seneca, and Poppæa are all severally described in the course of the narrative. Even the revolt of Boadicea which occurred three years before is, by a very pardonable piece of parachronism, made to fall within the period described. Omitting public and Imperial personages, the chief characters in the story are Pudens and Claudia, *i.e.* the Pudens and Claudia of Martial's well-known epigram. Pudens sees service first in the British expedition of 61 A.D., under Suetonius, when he becomes acquainted with Claudia, who is here made the daughter of Cogidumnus, King of the Regni, and a Christian. As Linus also figures in the tale, one is irresistibly impelled to identify the three with the "Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, and Claudia," mentioned by St. Paul. But Mr. Church thinks otherwise. Had he taken this "Pauline" interpretation of the names, it would have given a deeper interest to the story. As it is, the Christian aspect of the volume somewhat suffers. The Apostles SS. Peter and Paul are mentioned and do not appear, and Linus, who historically speaking, should have been represented as St. Peter's first successor, is in the year 68 A.D., spoken of as a simple freedman. A number of illustrations from Pompeian frescoes accompany the text.

A New Dame Trot. A story for boys and girls. By C. A. Jones. New edition, with eight Illustrations by Miss A. B. Woodward. (J. S. Virtue & Co.)—It is a long time since Miss Jones established her claim to the gratitude of juvenile readers. "Dame Trot" is by no means the only story that she has written for boys and girls, and which boys and girls have welcomed with sincere admiration. The book has entered upon a new and deserved lease of life in the shape of a further edition, and its pretty pictures, and its no less prettily designed binding must necessarily enhance its value in the eyes of those who are casting about for a suitable Christmas addition for the nursery library. "Dame Trot" is a charming creation, in spite of her strange whims and misunderstandings and the somewhat sad life that she had to lead in the home of her widowed father. But "big Kenneth" consoles her, and in time the tension, if so it may be called, between father and daughter is first modified and then disappears.

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THE HANDY VOLUME TENNYSON.—Messrs. Macmillan & Company have just published the works of the Poet Laureate in the form of an exceedingly nice handy-volume edition. The case is all that can be desired in the way of neatness and elegance, and at the same time is more strongly made than we generally fine productions of the kind. Within it are twelve neat little volumes, containing the complete works of the poet. His early poems occupy the first volume, and the English idylls with some miscellaneous works fill the second. From these the reader goes on to "Enoch Arden," "The Princess," and "Maud;" "In Memoriam" comes next, and the three following volumes are taken up by the "Idylls of the King." Thence we proceed to the "Lover's Tale" and "Tiresias," while the final volume is devoted to "Locksley Hall," "Sixty Years After," and the most recent poems, winding up with the delicate "Crossing the bar." The printing, binding, and general get up of the volumes are charming, and the edition is sure to become as popular as it deserves.

Behramji M. Malabari. A biographical sketch by Dayaram Gidumal, LL.B.C.S. With introduction by Florence Nightingale. (T. F. Unwin.)—The Parsee gentleman whose career is told in these pages has come into notice as one of the foremost social reformers that India can at present boast. Men of original modes of thought and action generally owe what hereditary strain they possess to their mothers, and Mr. Malabari's mother was a woman of eminent philanthropic sentiment. "All the boys in the street are my sons," she would say, and the kind woman would suckle the babes of low-caste mothers with a complete disregard of the stringent obligations in such matters. The son, the subject of this sketch, has distinguished himself as a reformer upon the woman question of India, and particularly upon the raising of the marriageable age of girls from ten to twelve years of age. This, according to our notions, seems early enough, but the cases of precocious marriage quoted, and such an instance as that of Phalmoni, a child of eleven who fell a victim to "infant marriage" only recently, showed that there was abundant reason for legislation in the matter. Last year Mr. Malabari visited England and brought the whole question before the public at a meeting convened for the purpose at Lady Jeune's house in Wimpole Street—a meeting which has every promise of fruitful result. Besides this, the sketch is well worth reading for the insight into Indian modes of life among the humbler classes which it so faithfully describes.

The Negro Question; or, Hints for the Physical Improvement of the Negro Race. By Joseph Renner Maxwell, M.A., D.C.L. of Merton College, Oxford. (T. F. Unwin.)—Nothing could be more frank and candid than Mr. R. Maxwell's statement of his case. We say designedly "his" case, because the writer describes himself as a negro of pure descent. When this is remembered it will be admitted that no little humility is displayed in the avowal that the chief curse of the negro race is—its hideousness! We are far from sharing the author's opinion, except when the black man chooses to array himself in the chimney-pot and doeskins of the European. Then all his picturesqueness and natural points are swallowed up in the incongruities of attire. The remedy which Mr. Maxwell proposes is "miscegenation" or, in other words, the intermarriage of black and white. He suggests that "General" Booth should transfer the 30,000 fallen women of the metropolis to Liberia and fit them with negro husbands! To this two obvious objections will occur, the consent of the women in question, and the doubtful improvement of the breed. What is, of course, the real cure is education. The principle which beginning with Toussaint l'Ouverture, and going down to the author himself, has proved the negro's influential capacity and placed him on a level with the white, is education: and to that, combined with Christianity, must we look as a solution of *la question noire.*

Main-Travelled Roads: Mississippi-Valley Stories. By Hamlin Garland. (T. F. Unwin.)—Mr. Garland shares the talent of his race for writing short stories and writing them well. The country and people that he describes are evidently most familiar to him, and he does justice to the natural beauties of the lakes and wooded hills and river cliffs of the Wisconsin and La Crosse valleys. What he has to tell relates exclusively to the agricultural population of this region—their sorrows and joys and loves and hatreds. The first of the contents has for its hero a young prig of a farmer who certainly did not deserve the girl he desired to make his own; and when she became another man's wife, it is somewhat startling to find her, after seven years of wife-hood and quickly fading charms, eloping with her original suitor. "Up the Coulee" is a tale of fraternal jealousies and, at last, of fraternal reconciliation — the coldness between the brothers being easily understood, when one of them makes a successful dash in the world, and the other stays at home to do all the work and get all the rubs and all the bad luck. Another chapter describes the home-coming of some veterans at the close of the Secession War, and a further item—perhaps the most attractive of the lot—relates the courtship of Bob Rodemaker and his winning the hand and heart of Julie. There are two more tales in the volume, and there is not one of the half-dozen that is not worth reading.

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The Story of the Iliad, and *The Story of the Odyssey.* By the Rev. Alfred J. Church. With illustrations after Flaxman. Two vols. (Seeley & Co.)—Few writers of our own day have done more to familiarise the mind with the classics of Greece and Rome, than Mr. Church. He has compiled a number of "stories" from Homer and Virgil, Herodotus and Livy, which have "caught on"—to use the American phrase—with increasing popular *acceueil,* and his last work will, we doubt not, take the public fancy with the same attractiveness. The two Stories now published, and published (we should add) separately, include the whole of Homer's works—with the exception of course of the Homeric Hymns—in a brief form. The eight-and-forty books in their English form fill about as many short chapters or rather more, with such prefatory matter as is necessary in the case of the Iliad to serve as an introduction to the Epic. To readers unacquainted with Greek and unable to read the two "Stories" in the original, Mr. Church's version will be peculiarly acceptable. He shines in dealing with Homeric tales, and in this instance has handled his subject with marked ability. Flaxman's graceful designs add immensely to the beauty of the volume. They are reproduced here in generous number and in a very effective way.

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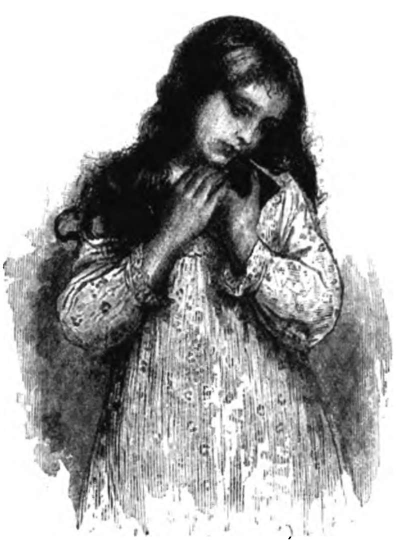
Jesus; the Carpenter of Nazareth. By a Layman. (Kegan Paul, Trench & Co.)—This is a second and revised edition of a series of short realistic pictures, intended chiefly for mothers to read to their children, and to bring out the human side of the life of Christ upon earth—the beauty of His life here below, and the personal contact of the Spirit. The book is expressly stated to be unsectarian—some readers will surely say that it is irreligious. It is at least bold, and treats the most sacred subjects in rude fashion and with scanty reverence. Indeed it deals not with Christ as revealed to His Church, but as fancied by the private judgment of an individual.

MESSRS. GRIFFITH, FARRAN & CO.'S PUBLICATIONS.

IT is hardly possible to say too much, it is almost impossible to say anything new in favour of the books annually issued by Messrs. Griffith, Farran & Co. For a century past—since the days when Johnson took his walks down Fleet Street, and Goldsmith was seeking guineas with the hopelessness born of bitter experience—the firm have been publishing year by year books expressly designed to please the little ones. This year they are as strong in this department as ever, and stronger in all the productive processes. Such a book as their "Granny's Chair" is a literary and artistic gem, a gem cut and polished, and set with rare skill and taste. So too with all their other books for children, through the various grades, until one comes to the cheapest and plainest—there is in all of them the same care and finish, the same desire to give to the little ones only what is good and true and pure. Of the stories for boys and girls one could not say too much. They are by the best writers, admirable in tone and teaching, beautifully bound, printed, and illustrated. Major Groves has military tales to tell, full of the soldier's life and its perils; M. Verne deals in the marvellous in his own marvellous way; and so one might run through the list, "nothing extenuating, nor setting down aught in malice," yet never finding cause for censure.



Fay Arlington. By Anne Beale.—This is practically a one volume novel, and moreover an excellently well-written one. It deals—we cannot even indicate the plot—with the fortunes of the family of one Sir Gilbert Oreburn, who returns home after twenty years' absence with his two grown-up daughters to an impoverished estate, with the efforts of a certain villain to obtain the latter, and with the way in which Fay Arlington, the niece of the mortgagee, proves the good angel of the piece, and brings about the gorgeous transformation scene before the final curtain. We reproduce one of the many charming illustrations.

Some Sweet Stories of Old. By the Rev. J. C. Ridgeway, M.A., illustrated by Henry Ryland and May Bowley.—The children of more than one parish know Mr. Ridgeway and his charm of manner, and these "sweet stories of old" he tells with all the delightful ease and grace that make his addresses to children such gems. Of the illustrations it would be impossible to speak too highly, whether one regards them as reverent conceptions of sacred scenes, or merely as works of art. The face of St. Mary the Virgin, which appears as the frontispiece, is rather a departure from traditional ideas, as is the omission of the conventional halo, but the picture is very beautiful.

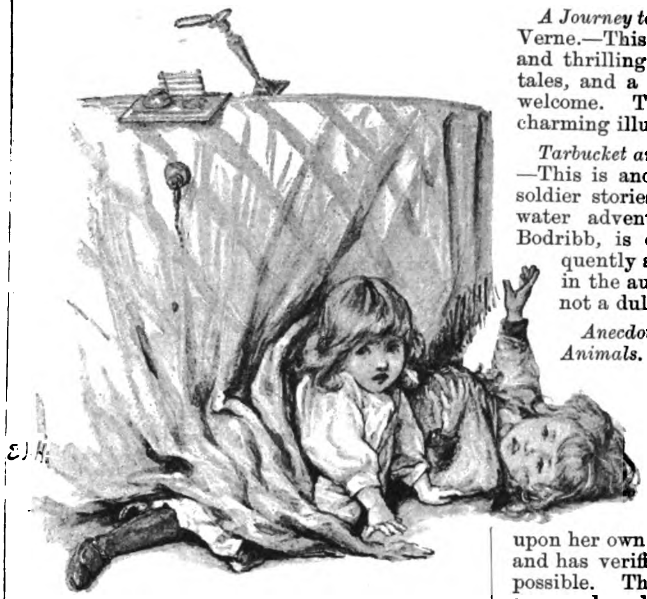
Twice Four is a collection of eight short stories for children, by Theo. Gift, Mrs. Patchett Martin, and other well-known writers. They are daintily told, and the illustrations, in colours and in black and white, are beautifully done.

A New Book of the Fairies. By Beatrice Harraden. Illustrated by E. Lupton.—This new book of fairy tales is an introduction to a host of new fairy regions, where live bread-fairies, soot-fairies, fire-fairies, music-fairies, and countless others. There dear little Beryl gives a party to all the fairies, and when they have gone one returns to tell her how to be a human fairy. The stories are just such as children love, and the pictures too.

General Crauford and his Light Division. By the Rev. Alex. H. Crauford.—Leaving the strictly children's books for the moment, we come to this memoir of General Robert Crauford, by his grandson. It is perhaps most interesting to adults, but boys will revel in the anecdotes of this fiery soldier, so feared and disliked by almost everybody, yet so thoroughly and deservedly trusted by Wellington. Mr. Crauford may be commended for the way in which he, a clergyman, has mastered the technicalities of the other service, and for the interesting volume he has put together.

With the Green Jackets. By J. Percy Groves.—If any man can write a dashing military story it is Major Groves, and this story, of which Colonel Trafford is in every sense the hero, is quite in his best style. The story is a true one, it must be remembered, though the brave dress in which it appears is due to Major Groves, for Colonel Trafford died only some twenty years ago at Walmer.

Changed Lots; or, Nobody Cares. By Frances Armstrong.—This is a curious story of a gipsy's child and a lady's child, who for a freak changed places for one afternoon. But, being alike in person the gipsies took away the wrong one, and the two grew up to womanhood under changed lots, at last to learn the truth—and live happily ever after. Its interest is well maintained to the end.



A Journey to the Centre of the Earth. By Jules Verne.—This is one of the most marvellous and thrilling of all the great French writer's tales, and a new edition is sure of a warm welcome. The present one has moreover charming illustrations to adorn it.

Tarbucket and Pipeclay. By J. Percy Groves.—This is another of Major Groves's dashing soldier stories, but deals with both land and water adventures, for his hero, Nicholas Bodribb, is originally a middy, and subsequently a bold marine. The tale is told in the author's usual chatty way, and has not a dull page.

Anecdotes of the Habits and Instincts of Animals. By Mrs. R. Lee.

Anecdotes of the Habits and Instincts of Birds, Reptiles, and Fishes. By Mrs. R. Lee.

These two books of anecdotes, uniform in all respects, are of unusual interest, as the authoress has depended chiefly upon her own stores of information for them, and has verified the facts in all cases as far as possible. The anecdotes are conveniently arranged, and charmingly told.

Nobody's Business. By Edith Carrington.

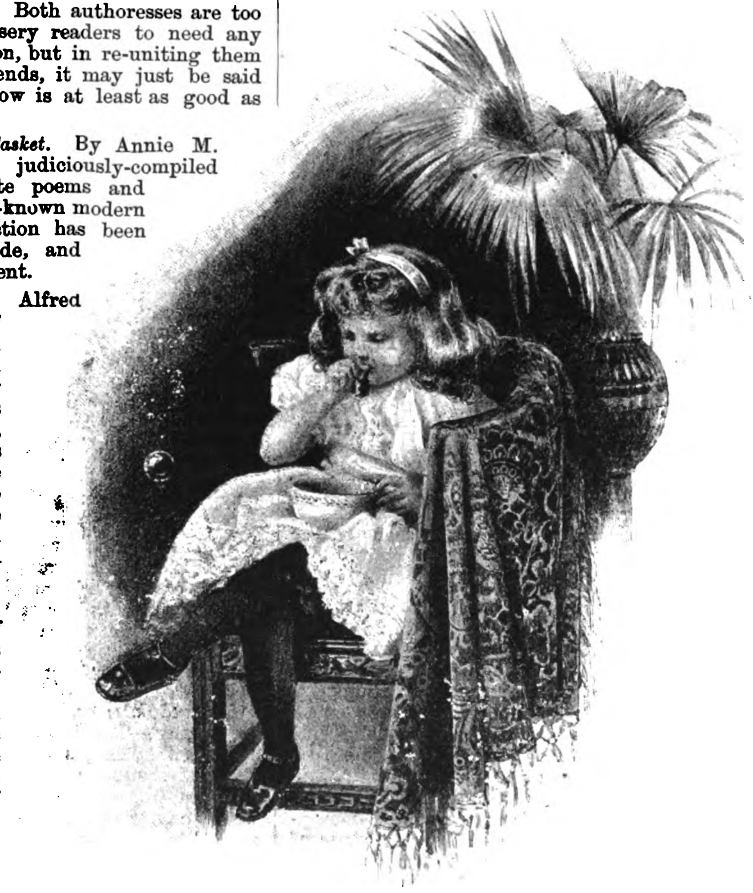
Those Children. By Helen Milman.

These two children's books are alike charmingly written and illustrated. We give a reproduction of a small cut from each and—*ex uno disce omnes!* Both authoresses are too well loved by nursery readers to need any word of introduction, but in re-uniting them with their old friends, it may just be said that their work now is at least as good as ever.

The Children's Casket. By Annie M. Hone.—This is a judiciously-compiled volume of favourite poems and recitations by well-known modern writers. The selection has been most carefully made, and the notes are excellent.

Paul Blake, by Alfred Elwes, is a story of adventures of a lad in Corsica and the neighbouring islands. It is founded on fact, and the author has evidently taken the greatest care as to the accuracy of the local colouring, with which he is well acquainted.

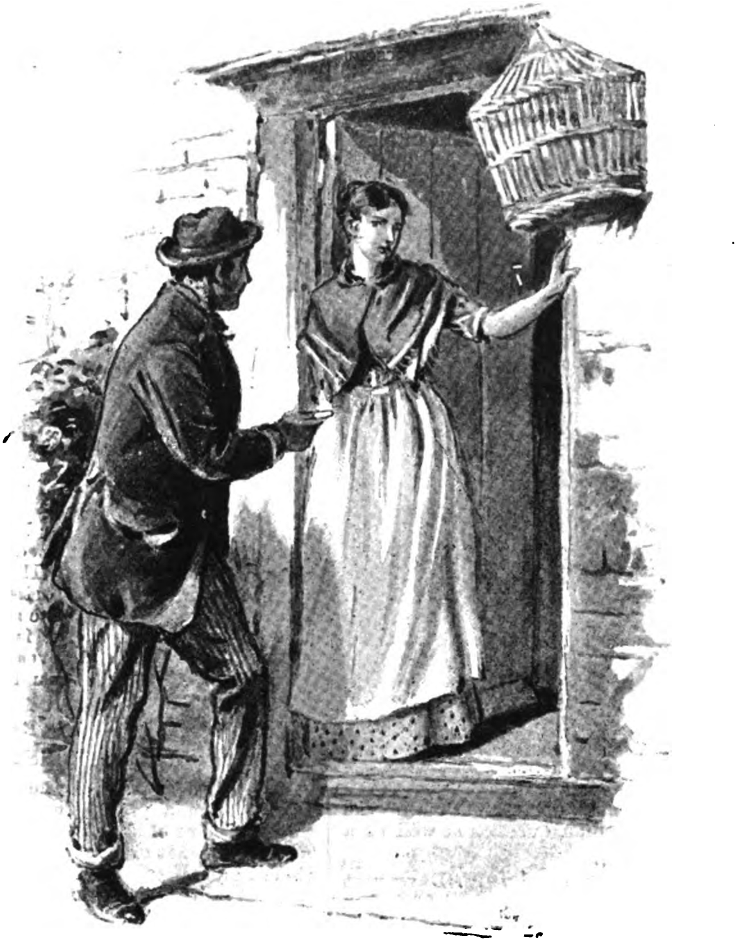
Mischief Makers; or, The Story of Zipporah. By Miss M. E. Brewster.—This is a historical tale of unusual interest, a domestic tale of Jewish life connected with the stirring events of the time when Marc Antony was beneath the influence of Cleopatra.



Burr, Junior. By G. Manville Fenn.—This rattling story of school life, told in the author's best style, deals with the struggles and studies of Burr, junr., at old Browne's school. There is, and always must be, a certain number of the incidents in stories of school life that have been told before, but this is much fresher than the majority, and the excitement lasts all through. One of the illustrations we reproduce, from which the excellence of the rest may be gathered.

"Gerty and May."—Girls will enjoy reading this pleasant story of poor little Martha Smyth, the deformed young governess. But in spite of her deformity the governess is a lady, and will win the love of those who read of her, as she did at last that of her very unpleasant pupil.

Lester, the Loyalist. By Douglas Sladen.—This little "Romance of the Founding of Canada" is chiefly curious as being printed in Japan, by Japanese, exactly in the style prescribed by Japanese etiquette for such works. Yet the poem itself has a good deal of poetic merit and dramatic force.



From "Burr, Junior."

Adventures in Australia; or, The Wanderings of Captain Spencer. By Mrs. R. Lee.—This third edition of Mrs. Lee's book shows how thoroughly its interesting pages are appreciated. The text has undergone a thorough revision, so as to ensure the recent exploration shall not contradict its statements, and the book remains a vivid and accurate picture of Australia as it was thirty years ago or so.

Among the Zulus; or, The Adventures of Hans Sterk. By General Drayson.—This is another old friend, who will be warmly welcomed in his new dress. General Drayson is never more at home than in describing such scenes, and few can describe them so well.

The Young Governess. By the author of

In addition to the long list of books just noticed are several other cheap new editions of novels and other books, to which we cannot refer in detail. Messrs. Griffith, Farran & Co. have also just issued a number of the "Newbery Painting books," with scenes coloured on one page, and in outline for young artists to colour on the opposite one. They have also issued several editions to the popular "Old Corner Series," and three to the "Newbery Toy Books," these latter entitled "Day Time," "Play Time," and "Bed Time" respectively—all filled with the usual simple tales and poetry, and charmingly illustrated.

Granny's Wonderful Chair, and its tales of former times. By Francis Browne, illustrated by Marie Seymour Lucas.—This delightful volume, though "only a children's book," may perhaps fairly be deemed, in its own department, the book of the season. Its charming fairy tales were originally published in 1856 as a small quarto, illustrated by Kenny Meadows, became popular, and went out of print. In 1887 Mrs. Hodgson Burnett wrote for *St. Nicholas* a series of "Stories from a lost fairy book, re-told by the child who read them," and these stories were discovered to be this talented authoress's memories of the book in question re-written. The present edition is according to the old text, but with exquisite illustrations—so exquisite that one could not say too much of their expression, softness and delicacy—in colours and in black and white.

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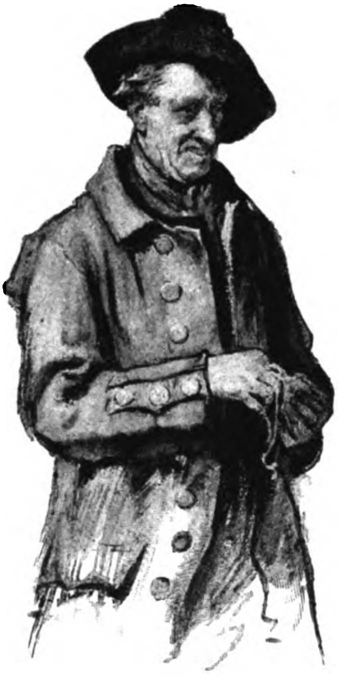
MR. JOHN HOGG'S PUBLICATIONS.

Uncle Tom's Cabin. By Harriet Beecher Stowe, with a sketch of the author by Alex. H. Japp, LL.D.—This new edition of Mrs. Stowe's great work has a special interest from the fact that the many illustrations are from the original woodblocks. These were prepared at great cost, Mr. George Thomas, the artist, having made a special visit to America to ensure their accuracy. They were originally used in the now scarce edition published by Nathaniel Cooke, from the *Illustrated London News* office in 1853.

Redskin and Paleface. By Ascott R. Hope.—The title of this book sufficiently indicates the direction in which Mr. Ascott Hope has been turning his thoughts for the materials of this latest addition to his delightful series of adventure books. The last hopeless struggle of the Redskins in the Far West for independence has suggested to the author to gather up the events of the past generation in this quarter, largely from the pens of officers actually engaged in quelling the rebellion. Full of thrilling romance and adventure, the book is also a valuable contribution to the literature of the Indian question as well as a charming one for boys.

Some Historic Women. By W. Davenport Adams.—Mr. Adams has done well to follow up his *Woman's Work and Worth* with these studies of women who have made history. The four sections deal with women as patriot, as religious enthusiast, as an example of fidelity, and as sovereign; and deal with instances such as Joan of Arc, St. Catharine of Siena, Margaret of Anjou, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, and Lady Arabella Stuart. The only Englishwoman in the list is in the fourth part, from which it would have been impossible to omit our Queen Elizabeth. The sketches are charmingly written.

Pioneers of Civilisation. By John Tillotson.—This is a new and revised edition of Mr. Tillotson's well-known book. The whole seems to have been revised with much care, and a new chapter has been added which deals with Stanley's latest African explorations, the Polar expedition of the *Alert* and *Discovery* in 1875, and other more recent events.



From "Granny's Wonderful Chair."

Small Beginnings; or, The Way to Get On.—This is a new and cheaper edition of a work already well-known. The biographical sketches of men who have risen to eminence from humble beginnings are always valuable, and the present selection is representative and varied. The narratives are written in an interesting fashion, and the book is attractively bound. .

The Boys of Priors Dean. By Phœbe Allen.

Meg and Olive. By M. Rickards.

These two prettily bound and illustrated stories form a pair. The first-named is a pleasant story of boy-life in a country village, and shows what evil may be done for want of thought and through yielding to the first small temptation that comes in the way.

The second is a tale of two little girls—aunt and niece, though very nearly the same age—and of their life in an old country house.

A Canterbury Tale. By M. A. Hoyer.

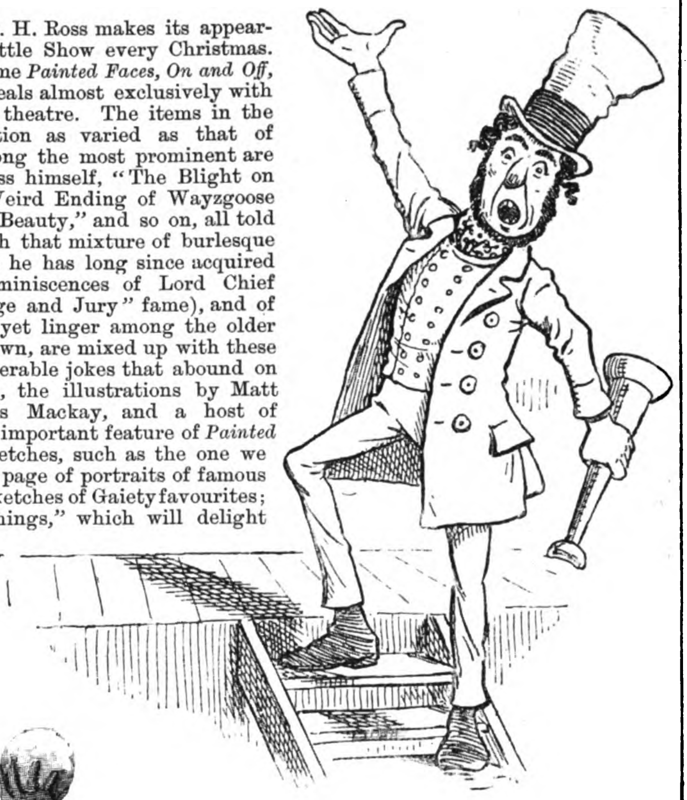
Father Christmas's Stories. By Louise Alice Riley.

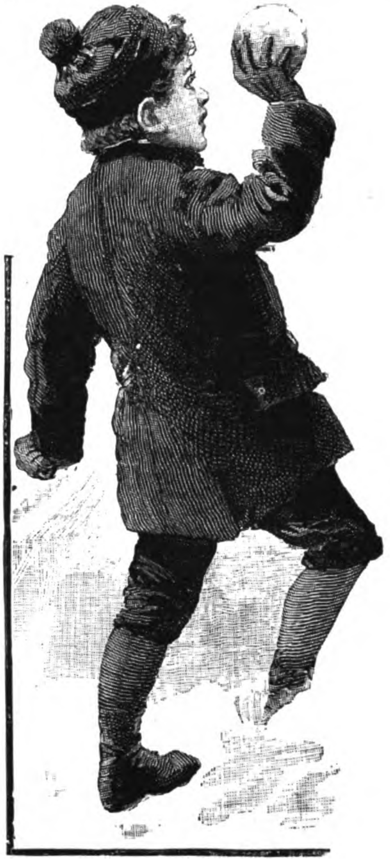
These two books—smaller than those already mentioned—form a pretty pair for young readers. The first is a delightful tale of a little boy and girl who live at Canterbury, after making each other's acquaintance by accident in London.

The second contains six little stories for children, starting with a visit paid by a certain little boy to Father Christmas's home, travelling on the North Wind's back, and who is visited at home by Father Christmas—a benevolent old gentleman who sits on the bed and tells stories.

CHARLES ROSS'S CHRISTMAS ANNUAL.

A WINTER book by Mr. C. H. Ross makes its appearance as regularly as the Cattle Show every Christmas. This year he terms his volume *Painted Faces, On and Off*, and, as the title suggests, deals almost exclusively with subjects connected with the theatre. The items in the "show" include a collection as varied as that of Barnum's museum, and among the most prominent are a dozen stories by Mr. Ross himself, "The Blight on Blatherby's Life," "The Weird Ending of Wayzgoose Windibank," "A Bloodless Beauty," and so on, all told in his happiest manner, with that mixture of burlesque and blood-curdler for which he has long since acquired a unique reputation. Reminiscences of Lord Chief Baron Nicholson (of "Judge and Jury" fame), and of other people whose names yet linger among the older generation of men about town, are mixed up with these stories, and with the innumerable jokes that abound on every page. Yet after all, the illustrations by Matt Stretch, Chasemore, Wallis Mackay, and a host of others, are almost the most important feature of *Painted Faces*. There are comic sketches, such as the one we reproduce; there is a whole page of portraits of famous clowns; there are life-like sketches of Gaiety favourites; there are "frocks—and things," which will delight the hearts of juvenile masherdom, and serve to pleasantly pass the lingering minutes of a dull hour for many a purchaser.

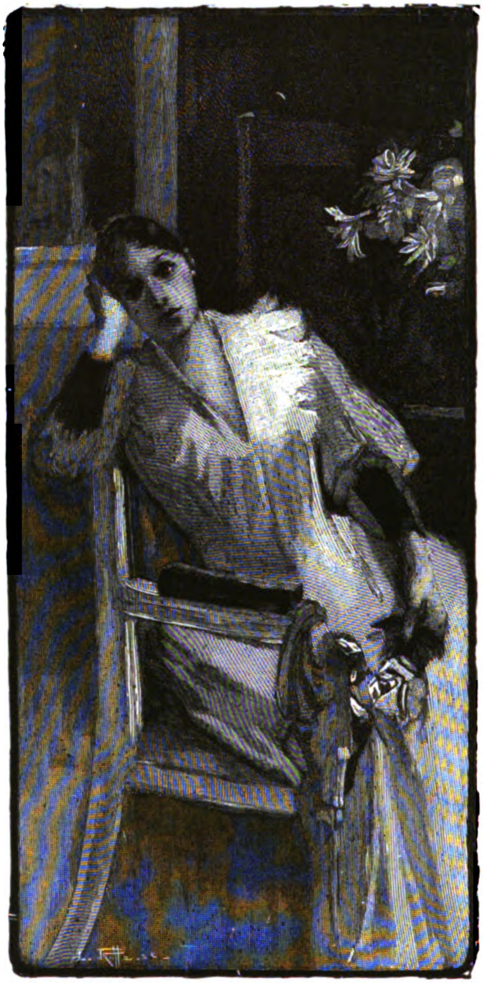




BOPEEP.

MESSRS. CASSELL & CO. were well advised when they styled their popular publication *Bopeep*, a treasury for the little ones. No words could easily be chosen that more exactly describe it. It is quite impossible in the space of such a brief notice as we can give to do more than suggest the wealth of treasure for its little owners that is contained between its covers. There are stories—simply told, and printed in large clear type—that tell a host of adventures of little people and their pets. There are dainty poems such as "A Song of the Fairies" or "Playing at Bears," and there are little biographies, as, for instance, that of His Majesty Alphonso, King of Spain, who is now only five years and a half old. There are little descriptive articles on "The Children's Hospital" and similar subjects that will interest the little readers, and little moral papers on "Being Unselfish" and similar matters. The illustrations are delightfully drawn. The coloured frontispiece is a charming picture of a little boy fishing and his dog watching the result of his "waiting for a bite" with keenly interested eyes. We cannot, in a page so small as this, reproduce one of the larger cuts, but the small one which we give may serve to show how thoroughly artistic the pictures are, and how well the artists have entered into the spirit of their work. The picture given illustrates a dainty story of "The Last Day of the Holidays."

MESSRS. BIGGS & CO.'S PUBLICATIONS.



Two Silver Keys: a Story. By Maggie Symington. Illustrated by W. M. Bowles. (Biggs & Co.)—Miss Symington's charming story aptly illustrates the counsel of S. Thomas à Kempis—"Be inwardly free and master of thyself, and endeavour that all things be under thee, and not thou under them. . . . Look on transitory things with the left eye, and with the right behold the things of Heaven." The child hero and heroine, left alone on earth, save for younger brother and sister, struggle against the prejudice, against menial labour inherent in their gentle blood, and find their reward in self-sacrifice, as everyone who sacrifices self is bound to do. The book is delightfully written, and of the illustrations, the one which we reproduce may speak. The difficult dialect of the Eastern coast is cleverly managed, and some of the country folk are admirably sketched. There is, moreover, a quiet humour perceptible at times that is very amusing, as, for instance, in the description of Esther's purchases at the sale she attends, when she and her brother Don first settle down.

Scarlet and Buff. By J. E. Corbière. (Biggs & Co.)—This tale of Winchester during the great rebellion of Cromwell will surely do good service in reminding readers of the vices of the usurper, and of the part played in the history of the time by the loyal and royal city, which gave its plate to the king when in difficulties at Oxford, surrendered with a very bad grace to the rule of the regicide, rejoiced over the deathbed of the latter, and welcomed with a fervent warmth the restoration of the monarchy. The tale, which embodies all the greatest incidents of the history, is told in stirring fashion, and a really excellent and scholarly preface is written by councillor W. H. Jacob, the 706th mayor of the premier mayoralty of the kingdom.

Popular Electric Lighting, by Captain E. Ironside Bax (Biggs & Co.), is a most valuable collection of practical hints to present and intending users of electric energy for illuminating purposes, written by a gentleman with a very wide and intimate knowledge of his subject. In its pages may be found a vast amount of information which has hitherto only been obtainable by reference to many and varied sources. The need of this brief information and advice of a general and comprehensive character has often been felt, but never met until now, and Captain Bax's work should have a very large circulation.

Famous Rides. By M. T. Yates. (Biggs & Co.)—Mr. Yates has in this volume collected with much care, and written in very pleasant fashion a good deal that will be new to the general reader about people and events that are now matters of history. His account of famous rides includes a wide variety of subjects. Lady Godiva's ride through Coventry opens the book, and here Mr. Yates has evidently gone very carefully into the mass of tradition which has overgrown his theme. From Lady Godiva he proceeds to the ride of Phœbus, and thence to the more modern ride of poor Burnaby to Khiva. Mazeppa, Buffalo Bill, and John Gilpin are all among his heroes, and the book as a whole is thoroughly readable.

* * *

Dally. By Maria L. Pool. (Osgood, McIlvaine & Co.)—Everyone who reads this volume will be delighted with it. "If you know her," says one of the characters in the book, speaking of the heroine, "you can't forget her a minute." There is, indeed, something peculiarly captivating in this waif from North Carolina, caught up from "White Crow Mounting" and "Ole Tid," the drunken hag with whom the girl had lived hitherto. Her introduction into a New England home of the traditional spotlessness was a trial at first both to Dally and to the kind widow who took her in, but her individuality of character and the strange beauty which the girl developed twined themselves round "Mis' Jacobs'" heart, and the motherless woman discovered before long that her whole being was wrapped up in her *protegée.* When love comes upon the scene, sorrow comes too, and a tragic ending, in which Dally's young life is sacrificed in saving the lives of her neighbours. There is much clever portraiture in the story. Mis' Winslow, the strict unforgiving Puritan, the impulsive Marietta, and the graceful figure of Mrs. Lander, the only lady occurring in the story.

VILLARI'S LIFE OF MACHIAVELLI.*

TANTO NOMINI NVLLVM PAR ELOGIVM
NICOLAVS MACHIAVELLI
OBIT AN A P V CIƆDXXVII

We have now in the new edition just issued a translation of Professor Villari's remarkable work in a complete shape. Two important chapters omitted in the first English version of the book have been restored, that on the Fine Arts of the Renaissance, and that on the criticisms of Machiavelli that have been pronounced at various times and in various countries. The whole translation has also received careful revision throughout, and the text adorned with a series of portraits and other contemporary illustrations and engravings that greatly add to the beauty, and the understanding of the book. The opportuneness of Professor Villari's history will be admitted by all. Indeed, the time in which we are living, and the changed face of the Italy of to-day may be said to have furnished the inspiring idea of his work. The dream of Machiavelli had come true at last in the modern unification of the Italian States under one sovereign. In his most celebrated writing he speaks of the enthusiasm with which Italy would welcome her deliverer. "What gates would be closed before him? What population deny him obedience? What intrigues would be opposed to him? What Italian refuse him respect? This barbarous domination stinks in all men's nostrils." When these aspirations have been realized in our day by Victor Emmanuel, what wonder if men should recall the name of him who uttered them, and, putting aside the immorality of Machiavelli's statecraft, remember only the appeal for liberty of Machiavelli the patriot? In the Renaissance, the Italian looks back upon the last exhibition of the national spirit, in the present "redemption" of his country he witnesses the revival of that spirit and its development. The judgment which mankind has passed upon Machiavelli, will be found discussed in the chapter devoted to that topic. The debate, as Professor Villari truly remarks, has hitherto chiefly turned upon the morality of Machiavelli himself, and not upon the scientific value of his doctrines, which is after all the real question. "If those doctrines were false, no virtue of the writer could make them true; if true, no vices of his could make them false." The weak and fallacious side of the "Prince," are not blinked by the author of these volumes, but he goes on to recognize in Machiavelli's teaching principles of an enduring value which will survive misinterpretation and calumny, no matter how ignorant or how base, and which virtue no less than wisdom may follow in pursuance of the great object to be attained.

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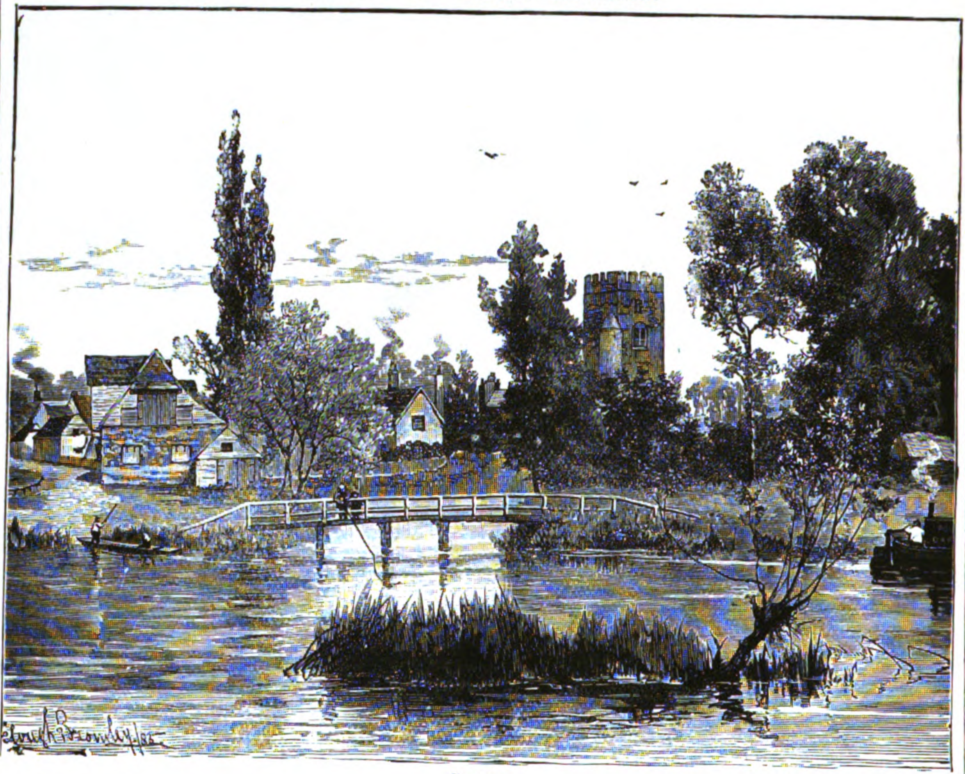
* *The Life and Times of Niccolo Machiavelli.* By Professor Pasquale Villari. Translated by Madame Linda Villari. A new edition, augmented and revised. Illustrated. 2 vols. (T. Fisher Unwin.)

RIVERS OF GREAT BRITAIN.*



GORING.

IN all accounts of the rivers of the United Kingdom Father Thames must necessarily claim the pre-eminence. The ingenious youth who remarked upon the marvellous design of Providence in causing great rivers to flow by great cities, had evidently the "silent highway" of England's capital in his mind, as one primary instance of his sage observation. Anyhow, it is only natural that the Royal River should lead off the list, and if the volumes to come are to be in any way gauged as to their quality by their precursor they should be very good indeed. The source of the Thames has afforded almost as much subject of dispute as the birthplace of Homer. The palm lies between the counties of Gloucester and Wilts, and various localities are claimed to be the parent spring. The actual choice seems, however, to lie between Thames Head, near Cirencester, and the Seven Springs, near Cheltenham, the latter being, in the opinion of Mr. Senior, the writer of this part of the book, the more reliable and genuine fountain-head. From this spot we follow the meadow stream that a boy might easily leap to its first rustic bridge, and then further to the dignity of its first antique and wooden lock at Lechlade. At Oxford, and indeed above Oxford, the river is both classically and popularly known as the Isis, preserving its name until its junction, or "marriage" as the poets pleased to call it, with the Thame, from whence it flows in all the fulness of *Thamesis fluvius* past London to the Nore. The chief attraction of this beautiful volume lies in its pictures. The characteristic points of the scenery have been effectively caught, and fixed as effectively upon the page. What a contrast, for instance, this picture of the child seated by the first springs of the Thames with the side stretch of waters by Sheerness and the full-rigged merchantman dropping down with the tide! From Maidenhead to Henley is, according to the writer, the "best part" of the river—the liver-wing, so to speak—and the scenery between these two points has accordingly a number of drawings faithfully depicting its beauties. Tastes, however, vary, and many will agree that between Goring and Medmenham are comprised the most lovely bits to be found upon the river. A view of Goring church accompanies this notice, and the pictures of Whitchurch, Mapledurham, and Sonning Weir are further examples both of the beauty of the scene and the skill of the artist and engraver. The volume will, surely, rank as one of the handsomest gift—and picture—books of the year.

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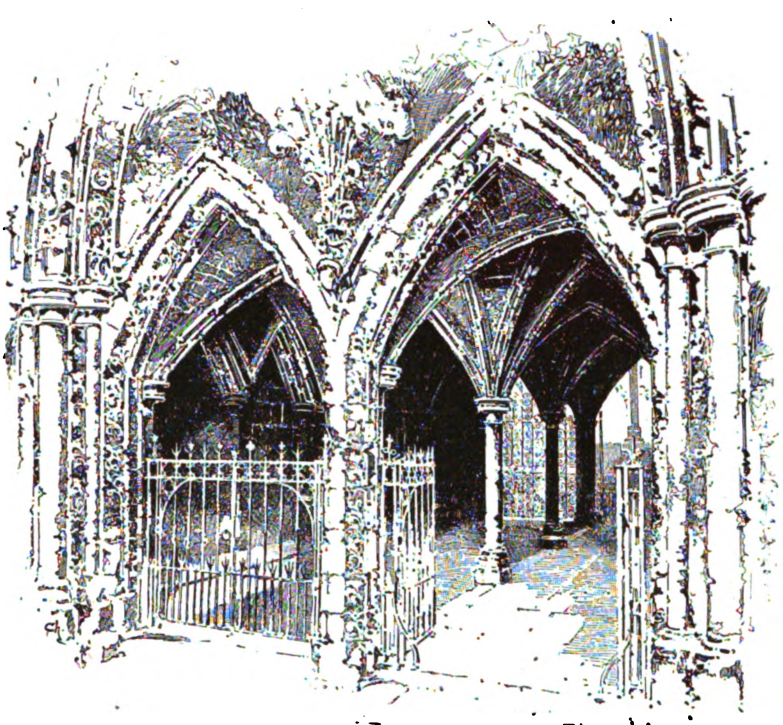
* *Rivers of Great Britain. The Thames from Source to Sea.* (Cassell & Co.)

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.*



Entrance to Chapter House from Cloisters.

A more charming book of its kind, whether for its pictures, or its letterpress, has not appeared this season than this. It has attractions both for antiquary and for artist, beside those which it necessarily possesses for those who dwell in the metropolis. The permanent interest that must ever attach to the Abbey gives an importance to every work that takes its description in hand, and will probably survive the well-meaning but unfortunate attempts of deans and architects in the treatment of the venerable building entrusted to their care. Indeed, there are so many aspects from which the Abbey may be considered, that it is little wonder if it should draw its perennial crowds of visitors. There is the historical and, we may add, the legendary retrospect of the sacred building on the "Isle of Thorns," carrying us back to Alfred's day, if not to King Sebert. There is the Abbey of the Confessor, of which now little remains, and there is the Abbey of Henry III., which is substantially the church as we have it now. Then there is the unique claim of Westminster as the coronation-place of our sovereigns, besides being the customary place of sepulture. Added to this, the Abbey attracts us as the general cemetery of the mighty dead, though some of our very mightiest lie elsewhere. "A Peerage in Westminster Abbey," cried Nelson, and they buried him in St. Paul's. One more claim to our veneration, amongst others that might be mentioned, occurs in the existence of what is now rarest of all, the still undisturbed shrine of a canonized King—the tomb of the Confessor! The gold and the gems which once adorned it have of course long since disappeared, but the royal relics still remain, and the sight which is presented every 13th of October, of pilgrims kneeling round the shrine, seems almost to carry the spectator back to the middle ages. The various architectural beauties of the church are very fully described by Mr. Loftie, as also are the monuments, though the "restorations" in the one case, and the incongruous and absurd aspects of the other, are not spared. Of late years the diminishing space available for sculpture has been crowded with statues and, above all, with busts of certain worthies who deserved no such distinction and whose images deserve it less for any artistic excellence they possess. On the other hand the author justly complains that the only real work of art introduced into the Abbey during the century—Gilbert's Fawcett Memorial—has been carefully hidden away where none can see it. The illustrations to the volume deserve high praise. Mr. Railton has caught the picturesque remaining portions of the Abbey and its precincts, with great felicity, and Mr. R. Blomfield's architectural drawing also commends itself. The facsimiles of the old engravings by Hollar and others add to the value of the book, and the photograph of Charles II.'s effigy will be examined with wonder and curiosity. Why were not more of these wax figures given?

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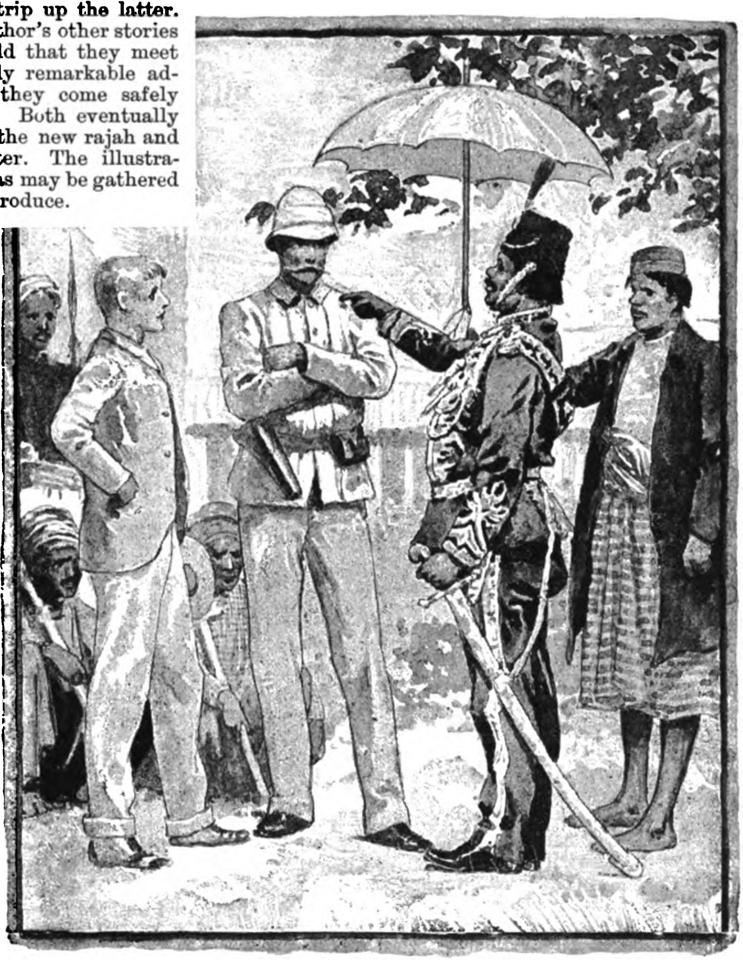
* *Westminster Abbey*. By W. J. Loftie. With many illustrations by Herbert Railton and others. New Edition Revised. (Seeley & Co.)

MESSRS. W. & R. CHAMBERS' NEW BOOKS.

The Rajah of Dah. By George Manville Fenn.—Mr. Manville Fenn is certainly one of the most prolific writers of boys' tales as he is one of the most popular. This new story deals with the adventures of Johnstone Murray—naturalist, gentleman, and altogether a very pleasant fellow—and his nephew Ned. This pair depart from civilisation in the shape of the little settlement of Dindong on the Salan river, and embark with four Malay sailors on a trip up the latter. No reader of the author's other stories will need to be told that they meet with some decidedly remarkable adventures, or that they come safely through them all. Both eventually settle down under the new rajah and live happy ever after. The illustrations are excellent, as may be gathered from the one we reproduce.



From "The Rajah of Dah."

The Children of Wilton Chase. By L. T. Meade.—This is one of Mrs. Meade's most delightful tales. The children of Wilton Chase have no mother, and their governess and aunt, though excellent persons, are hardly the best fitted to deal with a proud nature like that of Ermengarde. The result is that Ermie gets into trouble, tells a lie, and is led on from one thing to another until the whole household is in confusion and discomfort. Marjorie, the younger sister, is a delicious child, though a bit of a prig at times, and through her influence it is that all comes right at last.

Joan and Jerry. By Mrs. O'Reilly.—Joan is a girl of fourteen, living in very decidedly reduced circumstances with her widowed mother in a retired quarter of London. Jerry is the abbreviated form of Geraldine, her firm friend. The girls meet oddly enough—indeed, Jerry begins by mistaking Joan for the servant at the lodging-house, and requesting her, none too civilly, to hold her cloak for her, a piece of impertinence which Joan promptly resents by rolling the said cloak into a ball and hurling it into its owner's face. The characters of the two girls are exceedingly well drawn, and the book, as a whole, is very pleasant reading.

Rose and Lavender. By the author of "Laddie."—This is a pleasant story for girls. Its two heroines are Rose and Ruth, whose fondness for lavender provokes her lover to call her by the name of her favourite flower. The story turns upon the love affair, and Joe's passing fancy for the more showy Rose. But Lavender is true, and Joe finds his mistake in time, with the result that in the end the marriage that was foreshadowed at first is duly celebrated. The life in the dressmaker's work-room is well and graphically described.

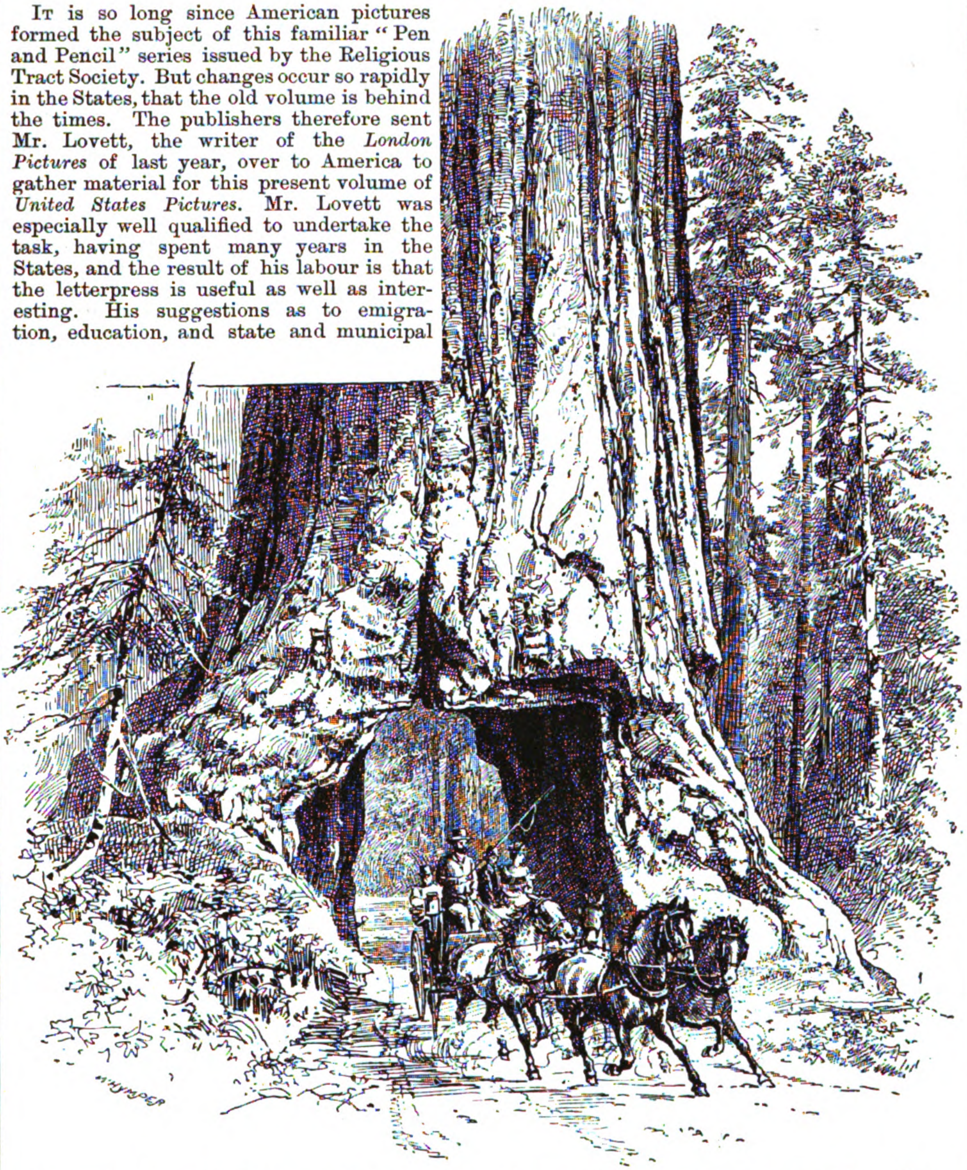
Elisabeth. By Henley I. Arden.—This is another story of rustic love, the course of which runs no more smoothly than that of love in other circles. Elizabeth has to leave home and her lover, and hears afterwards that the latter is false. Thereupon she promises to marry another, telling him that she does not love him. On the eve of the wedding the old lover turns up, and explains that he has been true all through. Bessie risks her life to save her engaged husband's property, but she tells him that she cannot marry him, and after a stormy scene the book ends happily.

The Bewitched Lamp. By Mrs. Molesworth.—Mrs. Molesworth's smallest tales are always worth reading, and this short story of a lamp that is taken from the house where it belongs and returns of its own accord within a week, is as charming as usual. The musical hero is a delightfully sketched character, and the lesson which the lamp teaches him proves of value to himself and to a certain young lady who tempts him to deceit.

Duty and Affection; or, the Faithful Drummer-boy.—This is a well-written little tale of the period when almost every country in the continent of Europe were overrun by French armies. Its scene is laid in a German town which is in the hands of Rhenish troops, whose brutality is vividly described. The father of a child killed by them is condemned to be shot for wounding the brutal soldier, and his son, to save him, enlists in the wounded drummer's place. With his terrible experiences in the campaign the story deals; but everything results as it should do, and the boy returns safely home.

UNITED STATES PICTURES.*

It is so long since American pictures formed the subject of this familiar "Pen and Pencil" series issued by the Religious Tract Society. But changes occur so rapidly in the States, that the old volume is behind the times. The publishers therefore sent Mr. Lovett, the writer of the *London Pictures* of last year, over to America to gather material for this present volume of *United States Pictures*. Mr. Lovett was especially well qualified to undertake the task, having spent many years in the States, and the result of his labour is that the letterpress is useful as well as interesting. His suggestions as to emigration, education, and state and municipal government are calculated to enhance the value of the work, and of the artistic merit of the pictures themselves it would be difficult to speak in too high terms. All the most characteristic features of life in the States are shown, as well as the most interesting buildings and the most picturesque or famous scenes. The pictures are delightfully soft in tone, and the whole volume is as good as any of the earlier members of the series.



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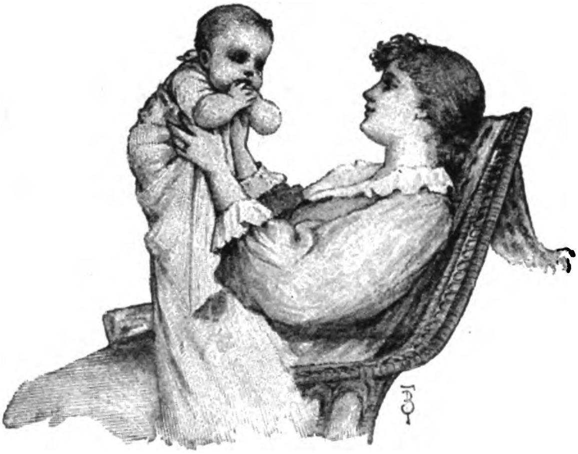
* *United States Pictures Drawn with Pen and Pencil.* By the Rev. Richard Lovett, M.A. (Religious Tract Society.)

MESSRS. DEAN & SONS' BOOKS.



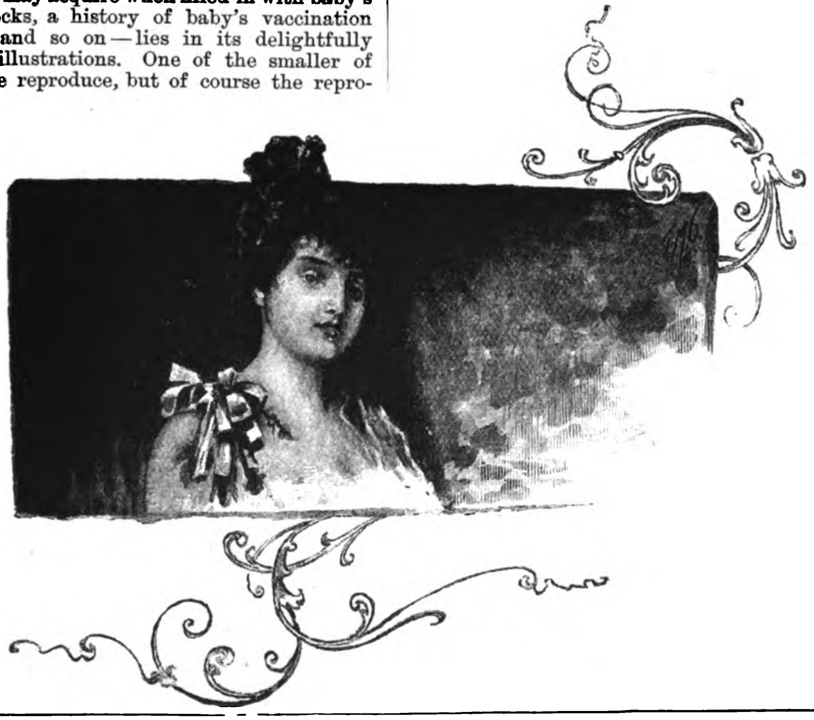
Baby's Souvenir. By A. O. Kaplan. Illustrations by Frances Brundage. (Dean & Son.)—This handsomely bound and daintily illustrated quarto volume is somewhat of a novelty. The first page contains the following inscription: "This book contains a biographical record of the child-life of . . . ." with a blank line. Then we come to a page devoted to the formal record of the birth, with spaces for signatures of parents, nurse and doctor. Thence we come to "baby's weight" the first time of testing, a baptismal record, a record of "baby's first outing," a place for baby's first photograph, a lock of hair, and so on—practically of every event that can happen to a boy or girl up to the age of twenty-one. The most charming part of this record, however—apart from any further and purely sentimental value it may acquire when filled in with baby's dirty socks, a history of baby's vaccination marks, and so on—lies in its delightfully dainty illustrations. One of the smaller of these we reproduce, but of course the reproduction cannot do more than suggest the appearance of the tinted picture in the book, which is really beautifully got up.

Carmen: the Toreador's Song. Illustrated by Frank M. Gregory.

Faust: the Flower Song and Spinning Song. Illustrated by Frank M. Gregory.

Lohengrin: the Swan Song, Bridal Chorus, and the Love Duet. Illustrated by Frank M. Gregory.

These three handsome volumes from Messrs. Dean & Son may be noticed together, as they together form a uniform series of high art gift books. They include, as may be seen from the titles, songs from each of the operas named. Thus, the toreador's song is given from "Carmen," the English text being supplied by Mr. J. Kendrick Bangs in all cases. The designs by Mr. Frank M. Gregory are exquisitely reproduced from the original wash drawings in sepia and blue by a facsimile photographic process, about thirty designs being given in each book. From "Faust" the famous flower song and the spinning song are selected for illustration; and from "Lohengrin" the swan song, the bridal chorus, and the love duet, the music in this case being also given at the end of the book. We have but space wherein to reproduce one of Mr. Gregory's artistic and dainty sketches from "Carmen;" but it may safely be said that more charming souvenirs of the operas have never been produced.

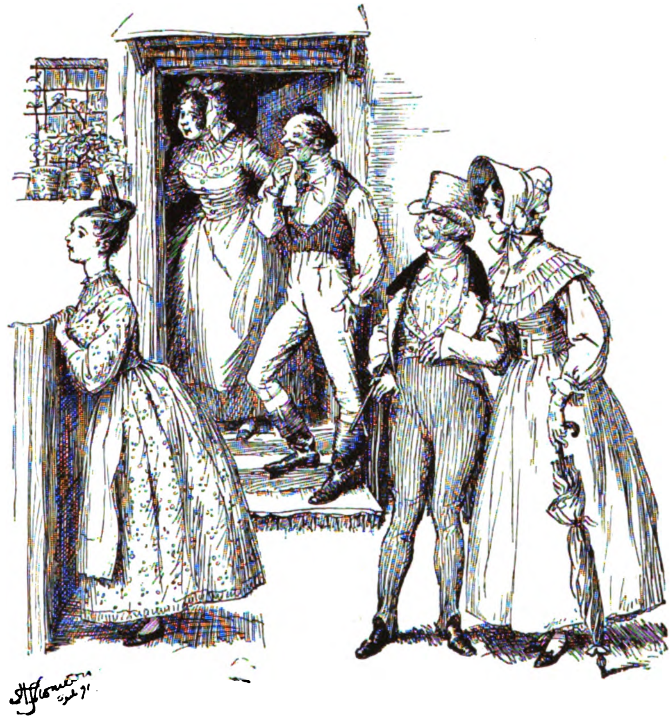


Uncle. By Jean de la Brête. Edited by John Berwick. (Dean & Son.)—Readers will be grateful to Mr. Berwick for translating the delightful "Mon Oncle et Mon Curé," which was published some two years ago, and at the time received very favourable notices from most of the leading English papers. The delineation of "Reine's" artless and winsome heroine and her two guardians, is a wonderfully subtle piece of character drawing—the heroine is so charmingly naïve, and the guardians are so deliciously quaint and humorous. The book ran through sixteen large French editions in seventeen months, and Mr. Berwick's graceful translation will surely be widely and warmly welcomed.

Young Ladies of To-day. By Charles F. Rideal. Illustrated by "Crow." (Dean & Son.)—This companion volume to the "Young Gentlemen of To-day," by the same hands, is one that will serve to amuse a good many readers for an idle hour. There is a certain amount of smartness in the satire, and the drawings are undeniably clever, though occasionally both are a trifle exaggerated—as in the case of "the young lady who smokes," for instance.

Hans Christian Andersen's Correspondence. By Frederick Crawford. (Dean & Son.)—This volume of the great fairy-tale writer's correspondence, with a valuable memoir and portrait, is sure of a very wide circle of readers. In accordance with his usual habit of keeping everything, he left at his death an enormous mass of letters, with a request that they might be published. The Danish edition forms three bulky volumes, containing over 800 letters, and this translation contains a capital selection. The most interesting to English readers will be his correspondence with Charles Dickens, long awaited by the public with a good deal of curiosity. The rest of the letters are to and from all sorts of people, from King Christian to Robert Schumann.

CRANFORD.[*]



There is something intensely fascinating about this novel of Mrs. Gaskell's. One of our greatest critics, Lord Houghton, once said that it was "the finest piece of humoristic description that had been added to British literature since Charles Lamb," and probably no reader to-day would care to cavil at the saying. The reference to Charles Lamb was happy, too, for there is a strong flavour of Elia in the book. One could quite fancy Sarah Battle herself settling down to enjoy her well-swept hearth, and "the rigour of the game" in one of the Cranford houses. Or, as Mrs. Ritchie suggests, one could fancy among the inhabitants "some of Miss Austen's sweetest heroines and Miss Austen herself." Not the least delightful part of the edition before us is its illustration. Mr. Hugh Thomson has caught the spirit of the book in the happiest way, and his pictures are worthy of any of our most famous book illustrators. Could anything, for instance, be more charming than the group we reproduce of the townsfolk who turned out to see Miss Betsy Barker's hapless Alderney, clad in dark-grey flannel after her fall into the lime-pit?

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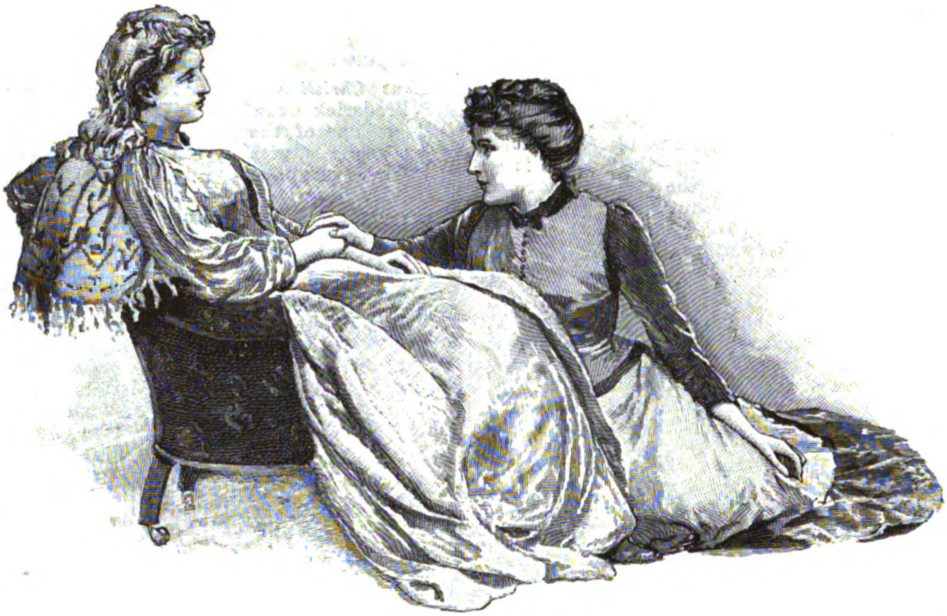
[*] *Cranford.* By Mrs. Gaskell. With a Preface by Anne Thackeray Ritchie, and Illustrations by Hugh Thomson. (Macmillan & Co.)

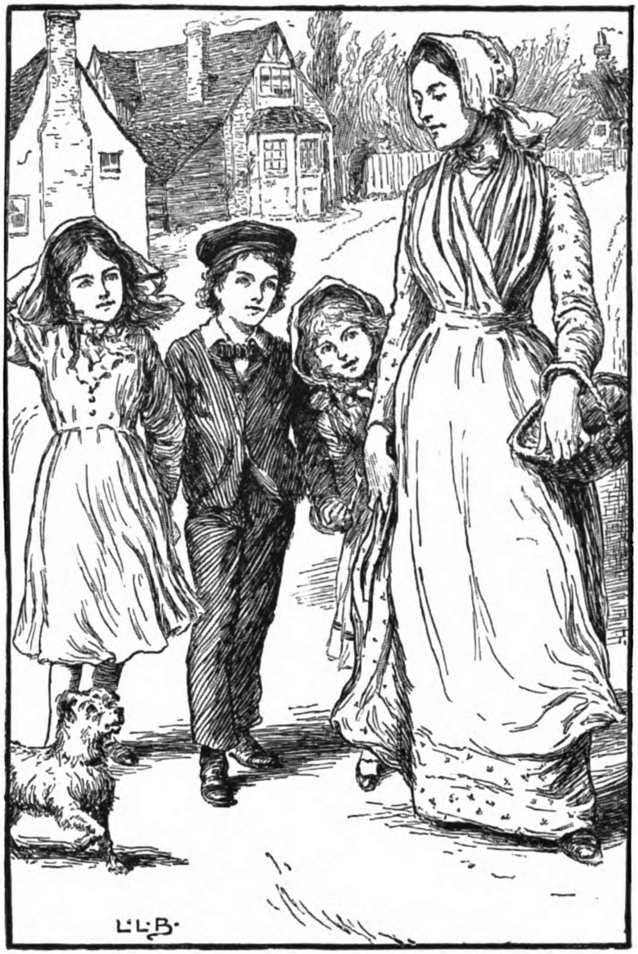
THE QUIVER.



This old familiar friend, another volume of which Messrs. Cassell and Co. have just issued, is its own justification for the publishers' choice of a title. It is indeed a very Quiver-full, and the man or woman who lays its lessons to heart, and who carries them out in the daily round and common task, can hardly fail to be blessed. A magazine for "Sunday and general reading," it was from the first intended to be, and emphatically such it is at the present moment. The old contemptuous remark which implied that a book which was, as our grandparents said, "fit for Sunday," once had a point. Certainly the literature that met this description was fit for nothing else: and how much less then fit for that. But now the best is kept for Sunday, and the *Quiver* is certainly suited for reading at any time. The "short arrows" that one finds within the sober brown and gold casing of the *Quiver* are suitable for use at any time, while there are what, to carry on the editor's metaphor, one might call "long darts," barbed with points expressly formed to hit special weakness. There is fiction in plenty, by the best authors obtainable—indeed, a glance at the list of authors is amply sufficient to show the varied character of the contents, and at the same time to suggest that the spirit of the Master pervades the whole volume. The Reverend Canon Teignmouth Shore is represented, and so is Mr. Newman Hall, while the Lord Bishop of Winchester is balanced by the Reverend Gordon Calthrop. The papers on the old churches in the City of London form a charming series, in which there is much that is new, and there are delightful papers on religion abroad—such for instance as that containing a description of the Norwegian Eucharist, or the account of the church at Barnes, the home of Francis Hare, John Hume, and the eloquent Henry Melvill. One illustration alone have we space to reproduce, but there are hundreds of dainty sketches and picturesque "bits" scattered throughout the volume.

Watts Phillips: Artist and Playright by E. Watts Phillips, with Portraits and numerous Facsimiles of sketches and illustrated letters. (Cassell & Co.)—In the case of this biography we have an instance of the "better late than never" principle. The subject of it died as long as seventeen years since, and the appearance of a Memoir at this date will come upon those who remember Mr. Watts Phillips with a surprise, though no doubt a pleasurable one. As a writer of plays Mr. Phillips will always take his place in the front rank of the Dramatists of the Victorian Era, and the recent revival of his most celebrated piece, "The Dead Heart," and the impersonation of Robert Laudry by Mr. Irving, have had the effect of recalling the memory of its gifted author to public notice in an unmistakeable manner. The special value and characteristic of the present "Life" consists in the numerous facsimile sketches which it contains, making it quite a caricature picture-book. Had not the dramatic faculty been so strongly accented in Mr. Watts Phillips' composition, it is safe to say that he would have achieved fame as a caricaturist. The examples given here are chiefly, if not entirely, taken from "illustrated" letters to his friends, and as genuine *jeux d'esprit* are perhaps even more valuable than finished drawings. The portrait of the Dorsetshire yokel "taken in this stile," the hare and his many (game) friends proposing the health of the verbose M.P.'s who prolong the parliamentary session, the author swarming up the greasy pen to earn the family joint of mutton, and many more, are not only eminently laughable, but also remarkable for the facile draughtsmanship which they exhibit. From first to last, it is a thoroughly entertaining volume.

MRS. MOLESWORTH'S NEW STORY.



Christmas would hardly be Christmas — certainly would not seem like Christmas— without a new story by Mrs. Molesworth. This year, however, we are saved from so terrible a prospect by the due appearance of one of her charming tales — *Nurse Heatherdale's Story*, just published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. Nurse herself we reproduce *in propriâ personâ* as drawn by the clever pencil of Leslie Brooke. The story is just the history of the nurse's charges, whose different characters are brought out in that delightful way that Mrs. Molesworth has of making her children live before us. Francie, the lame boy, is especially lovable, and his discovery of the hidden treasure is only a fair recompense for the way in which he is treated.

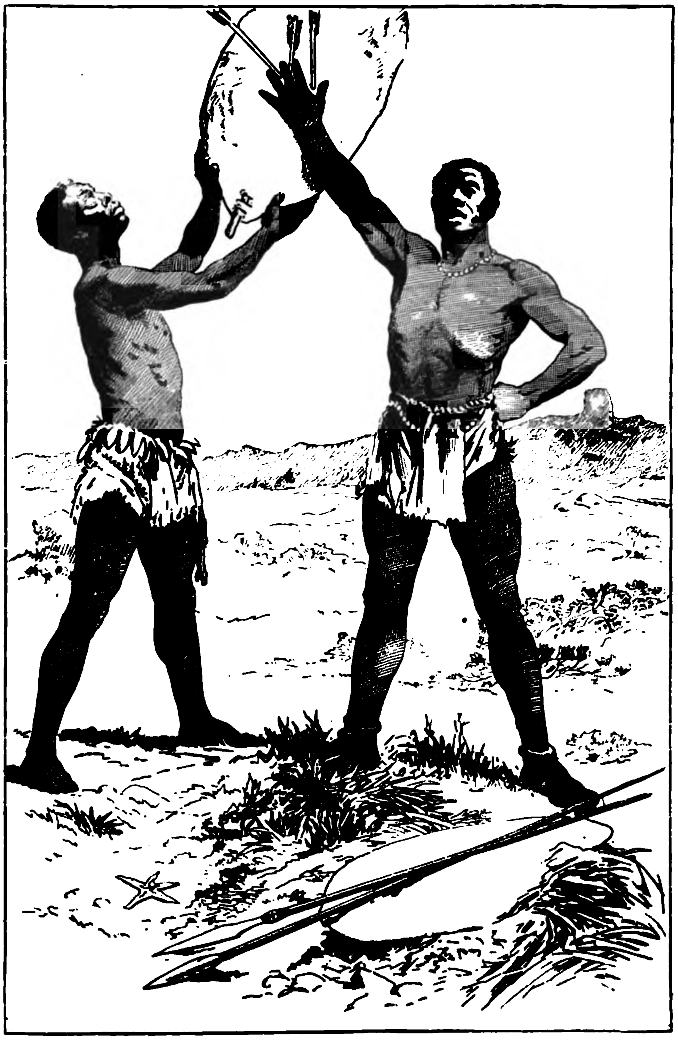
Four Winds Farm and *The Children of the Castle* are two other books by Mrs. Molesworth which are now re-issued with Mr. Walter Crane's dainty drawings. The former is an old friend, and in some ways the most delightful of all its author's many works —the child of the Four Winds is so human, his fairy godmothers are so real. The other is only a year old, but its charming stories are already so popular that the new edition has become necessary.

The Last of the Giant Killers; or, The Exploits of Sir Jack of Danby Dale. By J. C. Atkinson. (Macmillan & Co.)—Dr. Atkinson's new book is one that the author of "Forty years in a Moorland Parish" is above all men able to write well, for who knows so well as he the legends and history of Danby Dale? These legends the reverend canon has worked up into a collection of tales that will simply entrance the children for whose sole benefit they were written, not with a view to publication even. Yet he has certainly done well to publish—and other than child readers will find the legends delightful—for instance, the story that tells "how Sir Jack mastered the woeful worm of the Whorle Hill and the Eldritch Erne of Arncliff." The very title is delicious.

Stories from the Bible. By the Rev. Alfred J. Church. Second series. (Macmillan & Co.) —The many readers of Mr. Church's earlier series of Bible tales, will gladly welcome this new volume, which, like the last, is illustrated by a number of pictures after Julius Schnorr. The stories run steadily on in chronological order, from the story of Esau and Jacob, to that of Daniel and the lions. They are all most carefully written, with an infinitely reverent hand, and though extremely readable, yet bear many traces of scholarship and research, while their language follows as nearly as may be that of the Scriptures.

The Golden Treasury Series. (Macmillan & Co.)—Two new additions to this admirable series have just been made by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. The first of these is "Poems by Shelley," selected and arranged by Stopford A. Brooke. The selection has been published before and commended, and all that need be said of it now is that it is admirably calculated to fulfil the selector's purpose —that of making his readers wish to know more of the poet. His preface is a singularly careful and able study of Shelley. The other addition to the series is "The Fairy Book,"— that delightful collection of popular fairy tales which were collected and written anew in the most charming fashion, by the gifted author of "John Halifax Gentleman." Need it be said that it is a book wherein children, ever so dear to the authoress's heart, will revel? Surely not, for there is not a book that was ever penned by Mrs. Craik, of which a large part at all events would not be dearly loved by children. And this was expressly written for them.

BARE ROCK.*



Adventure stories to be successful need, above all things, two qualifications—they must contain plenty of adventures, it hardly matters how wildly improbable if there are enough of them; and they must be well written, for boys will not read the trashy style of literature if they can get better. Mr. Nash's story has both these requisites. Every chapter has its own perils and hairbreadth escapes, of the most marvellous kind, yet one of the most marvellous the author mentions is really an account of the actual experiences of a boat's crew, duly reported and chronicled soon after the time of their occurrence, while the description of a certain terrible storm is based on a fact in Falconer's "Shipwreck." And "Bare Rock" is well written. The hero now and again speaks in a very grown-up fashion, but the story is seriously meant to teach the value of self-reliance, and a boy of this type is quite likely to depart from conventional boyish style. The story contains a whole mine of useful hints as to what may be done in cases of necessity, and a good deal of actual teaching, so wrapped up in the adventures that a boy reader will certainly bolt it greedily. The illustrations are full of dramatic power, as may be seen from the single specimen we reproduce, and are moreover admirably drawn and engraved.

Friends of the Olden Time. By Alice Gardner. (Edward Arnold.)—Miss Gardner, who is one of the Newnham lecturers, is an authority on Greek History, and moreover has an exceedingly pleasant way of conveying her instruction. The little book before us presents to young readers a few typical and significant characters in such a way that their personality will be strongly realised. By this means a real and living interest is from the very first given to the histories of Solon, Leonidas, Alexander, Hannibal, and the rest of Miss Gardner's heroes.

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* *Bare Rock; or, The Island of Pearls.* By Henry Nash. Illustrated by Edwin Speed. (Edward Arnold.)

THE LEADENHALL PRESS PUBLICATIONS.

English Carols of the Fifteenth Century. From a MS. roll in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge. Edited by J. F. Fuller Maitland, M.A. With added vocal parts by W. S. Rockstro.—This volume of carols is, apart from the artistic and accurate style of the reproduction, a genuine curiosity. Thirteen carols are given, and these are probably about the earliest specimens of such work that we possess—earlier, indeed, than most of the English ballads that are so much better known. The parchment from which they are copied is a continuous roll, part of which is reproduced in facsimile by way of frontispiece. As to the date of the MS. there is a certain amount of uncertainty; but everything about it points to its being fifteenth-century work. The style of the language, the notation of the music, and all its externals, point to this period; while a bit of internal evidence—a thanksgiving for the victory at Agincourt—seems to fix the date as somewhere within a generation after the battle, which was fought in 1415. The authorship of the carols is also doubtful; but the editor believes the words and music have all come from one hand. Except the Agincourt thanksgiving, the whole of the carols are devoted to Christmastide (including two of the saints within the octave —SS. Stephen & John), and in the second part of the book the whole work is repeated in modern notation and language, with certain parts added by Mr. Rockstro that have been carefully written to fit the style of the original melodies. The Bodleian Library contains a version of the Agincourt song (given in an appendix) which differs a good deal from the Cambridge version.

Oracles of Nostradamus. By C. A. Ward.—This is in very sooth, a strange book, since it is an attempt to gather from the quaint crabbed quotations of the great French seer some sort of meaning. Mr. Ward goes very carefully into the question of what his hero saw, or fancied he saw, and gives a thoroughly scholarly sketch of his history. The symbolism is also discussed at great length, and it is utterly impossible in brief notes such as we can only give, to convey any idea of the theories of a writer who is discussing matters so utterly foreign to modern thought, and in language the very terms of which are strange and foreign to most readers. Yet one thing is clear, that Mr. Ward is sincere, and that he is no mere shallow dabbler in quaint catchphrases. There is much in his book—still more in his preface—that the "capable" reader will ponder over long and closely. He is always pure in style, always scholarly, always quaint.

The Australian at Home. By Edward Kinglake.—These notes and anecdotes of life at the antipodes will do two things: they will thoroughly interest the general reader, especially if he or she has relations and friends in the Australasian colonies, or has a personal knowledge of them; and they will form a valuable collection of downright practical hints for any reader who may have an idea or intention of settling down in the southern continent. As Max O'Rell truly said, "John Bull is a colonist if there ever was one," and Mr. Kinglake has the true colonising spirit strong within him. And he has also the spirit of criticism well developed. His chapter on the religion of Australia is truly delightful reading to those who know the condition which reigns supreme in Melbourne and Sydney—to a less extent in Adelaide. Some of his readers will doubtless remember Bishop Perry pretty intimately, while the leading dissenters of Melbourne and Sydney have been over here so recently that Mr. Kinglake's portraits will instantly suggest originals. Indeed, Mr. Kinglake has a good deal more regard for truth and accuracy than some of the *soi disant* "reverend" gentlemen who are distinguished ornaments of their profession on the other side.

As the Wind Blows: Stray Songs in Many Moods. By J. Percy King.—A volume of "simple songs that faintly echo each passing fancy as it came and went;"—but these simple songs, which are as free as the wind itself, sometimes lack the purity and healthiness of a genuine out-of-doors breeze. There is now and then a touch of satire, keen as the breath of the east wind itself, but for the most part the atmosphere of the poems suggests the sickly rush of air that meets one on opening a hothouse rather than the free air of the downs.

Those Foreign Devils: a Celestial on England and Englishmen. By Yuan H'Siang-Fu. Translated by W. H. Wilkinson of H.M. Consular Service in China.—Mr. Wilkinson tells us that these notes were written by a certain stout-hearted Chinese magistrate after a visit to Europe. A Chinese friend borrowed the notes, copied as much as he could before returning them, and promptly put his meagre version into the printer's hands. This is the version that Mr. Wilkinson has translated for us, with notes of what Chinese custom is in each case, so that one can understand why each fact noted caused the note-taker surprise. On the whole Mr. H'Siang-Fu is distinctly amusing and not intentionally offensive. He treats us as a new variety of insect, apparently, but in a general way is fairly accurate. The most remarkable features in his opinion seem, by the way, to be kissing, the wearing of low-necked frocks, five o'clock teas, and dancing, none of which he can get over at all.

The Bantams of Sheffield. By Guy Balguy.—This story of modern Sheffield is an uncommonly well written one, in which there is a strong vein of commerce blended with an equally strong vein of romance. The author himself is evidently pretty clearly familiar with the town, and with the ways of its people, as well also as with the terrible dialect which prevailed, even among middle-class folk, not a great number of years ago. Here and there are passages in the book that Sheffielders will probably not relish very keenly, but for all that the author's kindly intentions are manifest throughout, and he openly disavows all intention of slighting the city.

Bygone Beauties.—This dainty booklet contains reproductions of the famous series of "Portraits of Ladies of Rank and Fashion," which Wilkin engraved chiefly after Hoppner —indeed, three only of the pictures are not painted by Hoppner, and these are by Wilkin himself. The series is charmingly produced, and Mr. Andrew Tuer has supplied all that is necessary in the way of annotation.

Real Sailor Songs. Collected and edited by John Ashton. Two hundred Illustrations. (Leadenhall Press.) — In this small folio, equipped with all the taste distinguishing the house from which it issues, we have a collection of old sea-songs, from early in the seventeenth century down to the Russian war of 1854. Each of the ballads is printed in facsimile, and in some cases printed entire, illustrations and all. Broadsides of this description may often be approximately dated by the character of the illustrations which they carry on their forefront. Taken as a collection, the songs serve as a kind of popular history of the British navy and the victories won by a host of our naval heroes, from Blake's days to Nelson's and Collingwood's. Amorous, inflammable Jack is, of course, largely represented in the ditties, and scenes of parting or meeting with Sal, and Sue, and Fan and the rest, fill a considerable portion of the volume. The rigours of the press-gang also furnish subjects for recital, and sometimes the gloomy themes of disaster and wreck. As a rule, however, the songs are, like Jack himself, of a cheerful character, and keep to the bright side of things. Few of the ballads included by Mr. Ashton will be recognised as popularly known by the present generation, the only exceptions we have noted being, "To all you Ladies now on Land," "You Gentlemen of England," and "Hearts of Oak.'" The second of these was written by Martin Parker, and the last by Garrick.

Curious Cookery Receipts; including Simples for Simple Ailments. Printed from a MS. now dropping to pieces through much thumbing.— These "receipts," printed quite in correct antique style, explain themselves as far as anybody can ever explain them, for no one seems to know very clearly when the MS. was written, or by whom. It bears at the end the remark, "these was ended Sept. 24, 1709," but this remark obviously refers to the copying, for the actual date of the "receipts" is very much earlier, as is evident enough. The ideas are, for the most part, hardly such as would commend themselves to cooks of this century of grace, though some of the recipes are satisfactory. But the book is better as a curiosity than as a guide, philosopher, and friend.

Tales of the Wild and Woolly West. By Adair Welcker, of Berkeley, California.— These tales of the "Wild and Woolly West," are delightfully quaint and original. "Woolly" is a dubious adjective in this connection, but it appears to refer to the untamed, uncivilised, hair-outside, wool-in-the-sheepskin-coat condition of the gentlemen who figure in these tales as pioneers in the far west. There is not much of the horribly massacred English that one associates with tales of the territory in question, but there is all the familiar blending of pathos and fun that makes them such delightful reading.

A Daughter of the Gods. By Joseph Cross.— This is a book of ballads from the first, second, and third books of the Iliad. The ballads were originally written for the amusement of the author's own son, but were quite deserving of the greater honour of print and binding. There is the true ring about much of the poetry, and the etchings by Tristram Ellis which adorn the book are altogether charming, but some of the ballads are certainly hardly suited to children's minds.

MESSRS. RAPHAEL TUCK & SONS' BOOKS AND BOOKLETS.

MESSRS. RAPHAEL TUCK & SONS have again this year issued a number of books, as well as the booklets and cards with which the name of the firm is, perhaps, chiefly associated. The most important, and possibly the most beautiful of these is "George Eliot: Her Early Home," illustrated by Patty Townsend, Lilian Russell, and G. G. Kilburne, R.I., and arranged by Emily Swinnerton. The illustrations give vivid and most artistic sketches of the author's early surroundings—not mere fancy pictures, but faithful representations of the actual objects among which she lived in her childhood, and which she has described in her novels. To these dainty pictures—which are reproduced with that perfection that we have learned to associate with Messrs. Tuck's work—are appended, as far as possible, passages from George Eliot's work describing the scenes, or suggested by them. Changes are year by year creeping over George Eliot's quiet corner of Warwickshire, yet many of the spots remain as they were when she knew them sixty or seventy years ago, and the work before us preserves the memory of them in their unchanged state. Another very handsome book is "Shakspere's Heroes and Heroines," after designs by Calcott, Leslie, Maclise, Redgrave, and other distinguished artists. There is no text save a few lines from the scene of each play to indicate the moment chosen for the representation of the hero or heroine, and one study of each is given. The colouring is in every case exquisitely artistic and the softness of the tints shows how marvellously colour-printing has improved of late years. The utmost care has evidently been taken in every case to get the costumes and accessories historically correct, and the book will be highly valued by Shakspere lovers as well as by the general public.

Children's books, as usual, form an important feature of Messrs. Tuck & Sons' annual issue, the most striking in this department being, "Story upon Story, and Every Word True"— a volume of short stories by G. Manville Fenn. Edward Garrett, and other well-known writers, with delightful illustrations of landscape, animals, child-life, and so on, by Helen Jackson, Ellen Welby, and others. Most of the illustrations are in colours, and beautifully drawn and reproduced. "A Peep at the World's Fair" is a book that will, perhaps, interest Chicago children even more than their London cousins. Finally we come to the countless booklets, jewelled souvenirs, calendars, cards, and all the other odds and ends that Messrs. Raphael Tuck & Sons turn out year by year, in such bewildering variety. Here it is impossible to select any for special praise, but we may just say, that there is about them all the same artistic beauty of design, and the same perfection of production that originally won, and has preserved for the firm, their high reputation as art publishers.

Eight Days. By R. E. Forrest. (Smith, Elder & Co.)—This is a new edition of one of the best stories of the Indian Mutiny that have ever been written. The "eight days" are those between the 8th and 15th inclusive of the month of May, in the year 1857, when the "devil's wind," as the people of the country phrase it, blew with its most destructive force. The principal scene of the events dealt with in this story is Khizrabad—a place in contiguity with Déhli be it remembered—and some of the most terrible events of that most terrible time occurred in the neighbourhood. These are depicted with a graphic power and force that has rarely been excelled. The short, sharp sentences, and nervous English, make the narration wonderfully vivid. Indeed, as the author himself says, "the writer should dominate his events, but the events of the Indian Mutiny are sure to dominate the writer."

A Draught of Lethe; the Romance of an Artist. By Roy Tellet. A new edition. (Smith & Elder.)—Morbidly fascinating—is the general description given of this romance. It is not everyone that finds his bride in a mortuary awaiting sepulture, as does the hero of these pages. Nor is the scene much less ghastly, where the hero is about to be slowly drugged to death by his rival for the possession of this "Sleeping Princess." The novel created a sensation of a kind on its first appearance, and now obtains a permanent rank among Messrs. Smith & Elder's popular reprints.

New Grub Street. A novel, by George Gissing. A new edition. (Smith & Elder.) — Mr. Gissing's novel was certain to be heard of again, and no one can be surprised at its reappearance in the publishers' list of "popular" one-volumed works. The life and *entourage* of the work-a-day literary world of modern times, was never put on paper with more photographic vividness of effect than in "New Grub Street." An intense reality characterizes the story from first to last, and the tale is told by a man who writes from personal experience and an intimate knowledge of his subject.

The White Company. By A. C. Doyle. 3 vols. (Smith & Elder.)—The historical novel must ever remain more or less of a *tour de force* on the part of the author, and when the date of it is pitched as far as five centuries back, the difficulties surrounding the attempt are greatly increased. In spite of these obstacles, Mr. Doyle may be said to have emerged from his task with considerable success, if he has not altogether covered himself with glory. The "White Company" which gives its title to the book, is the name of the band of *condottieri* commanded by Sir John Hawkwood that lent material aid to the English side at Crécy and Poitiers, and throughout the later foreign campaigns of Edward III. Their leader, when this veracious narrative begins, had turned his steps towards Italy, and a certain Sir Nigel Loring comes to the front as captain, or at least one of the chief officers of *La Compagnie Blanche.* His suite includes three of his own Hampshire retainers, John of Hordle, Samkin Aylward and Alleyne Edricson, the last being the hero of the tale; and the reader follows them in their exploits during the Spanish succession war of 1367. Mr. Doyle evidently bears no love to monasticism, though his representations of it, we think, little accord with the spirit of the times he endeavours to describe. Two of his military characters are a monk and a novice of Beaulieu Abbey, who each in turn take to themselves wives, the latter even espousing a lady when in the very act of taking the veil as nun.

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Pitt. By Lord Rosebery. (Macmillan & Co.)—The series of short biographies of twelve English statesmen now in course of publication by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. is rapidly approaching completion. Lord Rosebery's contribution is a model of what such a biography should be, and is moreover written with a grasp of the subject such as very few writers could bring to bear. One of the pleasantest chapters is that which sums up the private character of the man, and Lord Rosebery has contrived in very easy readable fashion to sketch a singularly clear and forcible sketch of the great statesman. He shows, too, a wonderful fairness and accuracy in estimating Pitt's political character, and the contrast drawn between Pitt and Chatham is skilfully worked out. And here is the conclusion to which Lord Rosebery comes: "There may have been men both abler and greater than he, though it is not easy to cite them; but in all history there is no more patriotic spirit, none more intrepid, and none more pure."

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Pictured Palestine. By James Neil, M.A. (Nisbet & Co.)—There have been published, within the last decade or so, such a number of books dealing with the scenery of the Holy Land, that it seemed as if there were no vacancy left for another. Yet Mr. Neil's book is distinctly new, and in no way poaches on the preserves of other authors. As the late incumbent of Christ Church, Jerusalem, Mr. Neil has had peculiar opportunities of collecting materials for a chatty and popular, yet withal erudite and accurate book such as this. His facts have been picked up, as it were, in his daily life, and are at once matters of everyday experience with him, and new to most of his readers. The illustrations supplied by Mr. James Clark, Mr. Henry Harper, and their colleagues, are in the same category. They are drawn from life and therefore have a peculiar charm. Indeed the whole volume is distinctly new and distinctly interesting.

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The Last of the Bushrangers. By Francis A. Hare. (Hurst & Blackett.)—Mr. Hare, as late Superintendent of the Victorian police is undoubtedly well qualified by actual experience to write this account of the famous Kelly gang, whose daring terrified the Australian continent. And by nature Mr. Hare was equally well qualified; for he has a marvellously graphic way of telling his readers what he wants them to picture to themselves. The story of what the Kellys did reads like a romance now, yet the final episode, when the hotel at Glenrowan was "stuck up," and the police sent for artillery to batter down the walls of a stronghold held by bushrangers in armour, was described, on the spot be it remembered, by a special correspondent, and printed at the time by one of the Melbourne daily papers in April, 1880.

The Life and Letters of Samuel Palmer. Written and edited by A. H. Palmer. Illustrated. (Seeley & Co.)—We have of late had so many "Reminiscences" of artists and actors that it is almost a relief, in its way, to return to the more old-fashioned biography. Mr. S. Palmer is one of many—with Cox, De Wint, Muller, and others—who may be instanced as patient, laborious painters of the English school of Victoria: working honestly, skilfully, and assiduously, and yet reaping but little benefit from their work compared with its present value. A good drawing of Palmer's if put up at Christies', would, we suppose, now fetch a price that would astonish the painter who executed it, and that certainly would be far beyond any sum that he himself placed upon the work. His power of delineation, no less than his variety—sea, landscape, figures, architecture—strike the eye in the examples of his drawing which are given in the present volume. The earlier studies are cruder but none the less powerful. His conceptions remind one of Blake and of Rossetti. The former of these two he personally knew, and he describes a visit, in company with the elder Linnell, to Blake's house in Fountain Court, discovering the (now) aged artist sitting up in bed, and making designs for the Divine Comedy. There was a likeness of temperament between the two, separated so far in years. What strikes the reader of Mr. Palmer's Memoir is the extreme simplicity, the hatred of pretension, and the genuine Christ-like character of the man. "I mean," he says, when he was twenty-seven years old, "to get the print of the venerable Fisher, and one of his fellow martyrs, Sir Thomas More, and have them in my little chapel, that they may frown vice, levity, and infidelity out of my house and out of my heart." This simple and unaffected piety breathes in every page of his biography, and leaves a sweet memory behind.

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. Select passages from her letters. Edited by Arthur R. Ropes, M.A., with nine portraits. (Seeley & Co.)—Mr. Ropes has our warmest thanks for this pleasant and congenially-written memoir, which many will read who may perhaps neither possess nor care to undertake the complete three-volumed edition of Lord Wharncliffe. The collection of portraits, mainly after Sir Godfrey Kneller, adds largely to the beauty of the book and the enjoyment of the reader. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu is one of the few names of distinguished women of the last century that is still remembered and familiar. She was a *bel esprit* in an age that sparkled with wit and genius of all kinds. Her celebrated *Letters* enshrine her name, and they have been compared with those of a greater celebrity still—Madame de Sevigné. Lady Mary herself thought her own letters equal to those of the gifted Frenchwoman, and said to her sister, "I assert, without the least vanity, that mine will be full as entertaining forty years hence." Contemporaneously with the accession of George I. she resided, with the exception of her two years sojourn at Constantinople, for a quarter of a century in London and afterwards at Twickenham, enjoying the acquaintance and friendship of the stars of the literary firmament of the time, Pope, Addison, Congreve, Swift and Gay. Her proximity to Pope at Twickenham quickened the acquaintance with Pope into intimacy. The poet declared that:

> "Joy lives not here: to happier seats it flies,
> And only dwells where W—— casts her eyes."

The W—— may or may not have stood for Wortley: but, as Mr. Ropes suggests, "perhaps in his thrifty way, Pope made the verses do duty for several ladies whose names had the proper number of syllables." The friendship in time began to cool, and before long they quarrelled.

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Memoirs of Prince Talleyrand. Edited by the Duc de Broglie, and translated by Mrs. Angus Hall. Vol. IV. with a portrait. (Griffith, Farran & Co.)—The publication of the Talleyrand Memoirs have from the first proved a surprise, and if the truth must be told, not an agreeable one. Those who expected something after the style of the reminiscences of Madame de Rémusat, or Nassau Senior, or Greville, were woefully mistaken in their calculation. When the celebrated memoirs did at length appear they turned out to be dull, dry, and disappointing; and as a book of general reading, a complete failure. Where is the wit, the caustic satire, the amusing anecdote, the pithy bon-mot that we might expect of Talleyrand's reputation and history? Alas! it is all wanting. Whatever there might have originally been in these papers of a more piquant and lighter nature has been carefully suppressed, and we are left with a pile of correspondence and official memoranda compared with which a parliamentary Blue Book is amusing reading. The period covered by the new volume is that of the Prince's embassy at the Court of St. James after the Revolution of 1830, and is mainly occupied with an account of the Belgian affairs of 1831-2.

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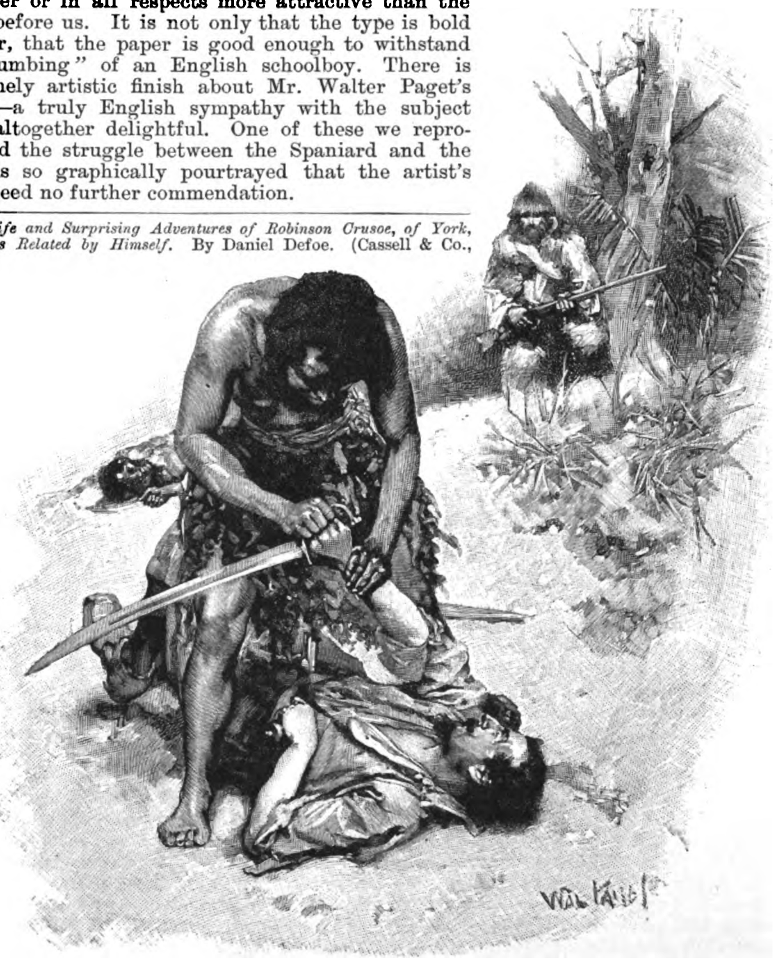
The New Calendar of Great Men. Edited by Frederic Harrison. (Macmillan & Co.)—Mr. Harrison's book partakes of the character of a biographical dictionary and of an Acta Sanctorum. The former of these two is, however, explicitly disclaimed by the editor. Its proper definition and *raison d'être* is announced as the "Positivist Calendar," framed exactly after the sheet published by Comte in 1849, as a "concrete view of the preparatory period of man's history." In this he arranged a number of illustrious names, beginning with Moses and ending with Newton and Bichat, thus illustrating the history of human evolution. The year is divided into thirteen months of four weeks each with an extra day devoted to "All the dead," the extra day of Leap Year being dedicated to "Good women." To each month is assigned one of the greatest names of the Positivist pantheon, to each week a lesser divinity, and each day has one or more celebrated men set against it, exactly as in a Church Calendar. Thus in signing his preface on the 4th of November, 1891, Mr. Harrison, represents the date in Comtist computation as "28 Descartes Hume 103;" Descartes being the name of the eleventh month and Hume the name of the day of the week in question. What "103," *i.e.* 1788—1891, may mean we are left to conjecture. Comte was born ten years later. It has only to be added that short biographies of the 558 names are supplied according to their place in the Calendar, and are intended to be studied, each on its proper day, just as is customary with the Lives of their Saints.

Inconsequent Lives: a Village Chronicle. By J. H. Pearce. (W. Heinemann.)—The rural and sea-faring Cornish folk whom Mr. Pearce has already so truthfully depicted in a former story, are again selected as the chief, and indeed the sole, actors in his most recent work. To compose " A Village Chronicle," in which none but the uneducated class is represented, and to write it in a decidedly attractive style, is a talent within the reach of few. If we mention the American "C. E. Craddock," and Mr. Pearce, we almost exhaust the list among the authors of the present day. The *motif* of " Inconsequent Lives " is that of an ill-assorted marriage. There was no question of mésalliance between the fisherman and the farmer's daughter, or none that was worth considering; but the bride expected more post-matrimonial attentions than Sam Trewartha was inclined to give, and he had a nasty temper into the bargain. Jealousy in time widened the breach, and the poor wife, who was determined to live just to spite her rival, eventually succumbs to a blow dealt her in his wrath by her maddened spouse. The ethics of conjugal happiness were never better stated — from the point of view of rustic philosophy—than by Biddy Chynoweth, poor Ellen's neighbour and consoler. " Bless 'ee ! " exclaims the moralizing dame, " marriage doant make no difference; we've got courtin' fancies all our lives. Onnly wemmin caan't indulge them as men can. But I feel no envy —not I ! I've got as much fun out o' marriage as I ever espected to git, and I wed n' grudge a man a bit o' flirtin' ef he feels he must have it for a change; for we're sure to git th' best o' th' bargain in some way or auther, sim to me."

ROBINSON CRUSOE.*

Of the making of books there was no end, even in the days of Solomon, and the wise king's remark holds true to-day, so much so that it is positively refreshing to find, among the multitude of new-made books, a friend so old and so well-tried as Robinson Crusoe's life and surprising adventures. Daniel Defoe, perhaps, would never have been immortalised by his other literary efforts, though some of these have fairly earned their places on shelves devoted to English classics, if he had not written down this history of the mariner of York, but no English boy can be fairly considered worthy of the *toga virilis* until he has pored over the pages of the quaint adventure story. How many editions the work has passed through, even a librarian of the British Museum could hardly tell the curious reader, but, *certes*, few have been handsomer or in all respects more attractive than the volume before us. It is not only that the type is bold and clear, that the paper is good enough to withstand the "thumbing" of an English schoolboy. There is a genuinely artistic finish about Mr. Walter Paget's pictures—a truly English sympathy with the subject that is altogether delightful. One of these we reproduce, and the struggle between the Spaniard and the savage is so graphically pourtrayed that the artist's powers need no further commendation.



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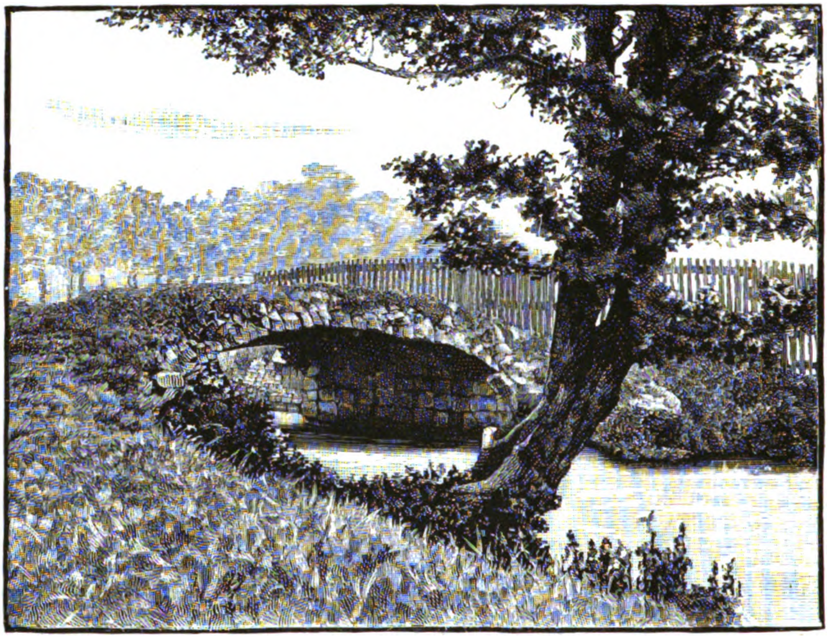
* *The Life and Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, of York, Mariner, as Related by Himself.* By Daniel Defoe. (Cassell & Co., Limited.)

THE CHURCH MONTHLY.



Harold's Bridge.

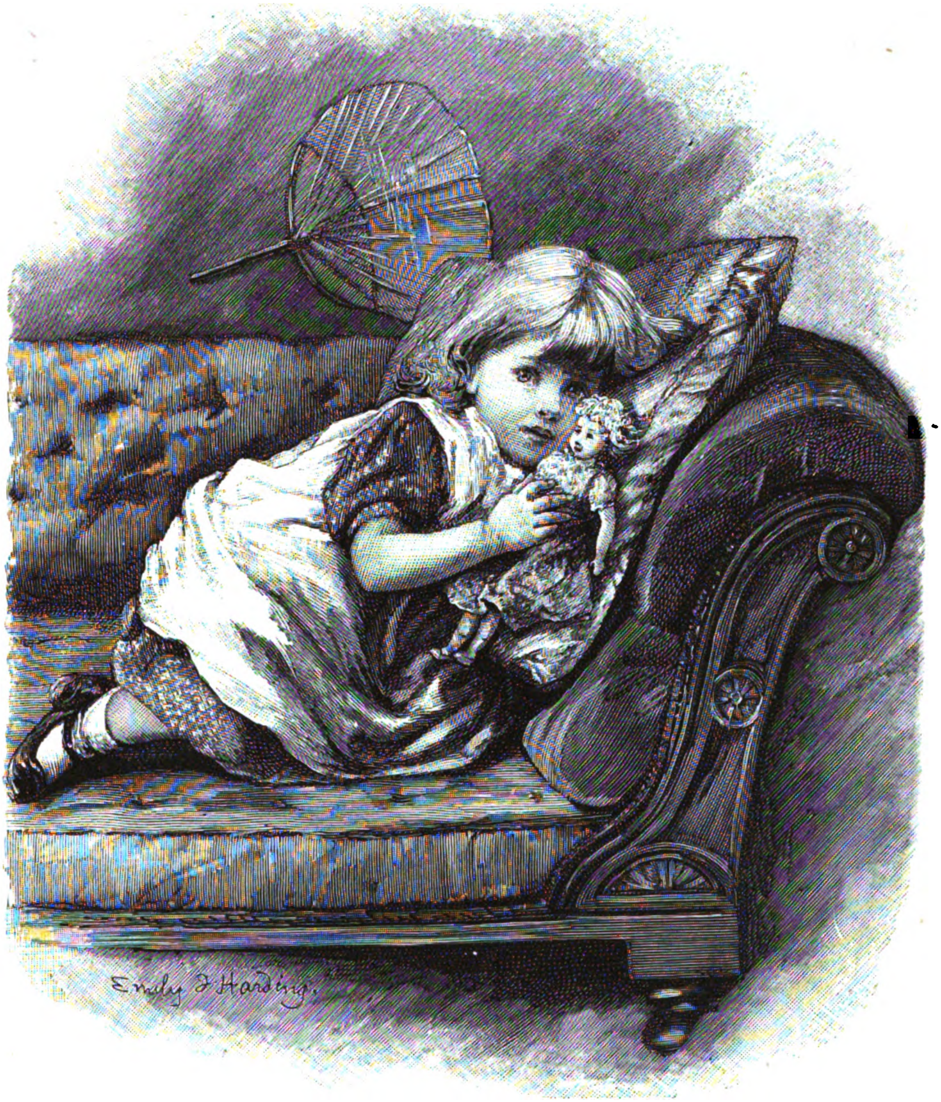
The old parish magazine was, not so many years ago, about the dreariest form of literature imaginable, both as regards its contents and appearance. Indeed, it is not too much to say that Mr. Sherlock, the editor of *The Church Monthly*, whose handsome annual volume is now before us, was the first to show what a magazine for localisation might be made. Setting before him a very high ideal, he has ever paid the most scrupulous attention to every detail of his work, with the result that *The Church Monthly* is to-day in every respect all that could be desired. Its very appearance is inviting, and the pictures which adorn nearly every page are really works of art. One of the smaller of these we reproduce, showing the ancient bridge that visitors to the Abbey Church of Waltham Holy Cross will remember close to the Abbey fish-ponds. Of the literary contents of the volume it is impossible to speak too well. The Bishops of Ripon, Guildford, Exeter, Colchester and Richmond are but a few of the episcopal contributors, while among lesser lights are Archdeacons Farrar, Sinclair, and Gore, Prebendary Gordon Calthrop and a host of well-known writers—clerical and lay. The music is by some of the best known Ecclesiastical composers, and the general teaching of the whole—while never oblivious for an instant of the fact that the magazine is the "Church" monthly, is yet as broad and as thoroughly "Catholic" in the true sense of the word, as the Church herself.

The Life of Christ. By the Ven. Archdeacon F. W. Farrar, D.D. (Cassell & Co.)—Seventeen years have elapsed since Archdeacon Farrar's Life of Christ first made its appearance, so that it is but fair to assume that there are by this time many readers unfamiliar with it. Yet the work needs surely no word of commendation at our hands, and no word of defence against the many attacks that have been levelled against it and its author. Archdeacon Farrar is perfectly able to defend himself if he needs defence, and the fact that he was selected to write the life of Our Lord is in itself at least presumptive evidence of his fitnes for the task which he undertook so hesitatingly. That it was a labour of love no one can doubt for an instant—a labour undertaken with a fuller knowledge of the subject and its difficulties than almost any other writer possessed. Of the care and thought bestowed upon it there is no need to speak, while the wide study undertaken by the author, with the view of fitting himself for the task makes its results apparent on every page. The illustrations of local scenes are the result of a special tour to the Holy Land, and those relating to antiquities have been under the care of an eminent archæologist. The type in which the volume is printed is exceedingly large and clear.

Cassell's Saturday Journal.—Among the host of periodicals for family reading that make their appearance year by year in volume form it is difficult to pick out any for special commendation, yet it is hard to imagine a periodical more exactly suited to the wants of a family circle than this *Saturday Magazine* issued by Messrs. Cassell & Co. There are between its handsome cloth covers some thirteen hundred pages, but it is not too much to say that not one of these is dull. Mr. Richard Dowling opens the ball with a serial story "A Baffling Guest," told in his raciest fashion, and among the other writers of serials are, Robert H. Sherard, W. C. Hudson, "Q.," Frank Barrett, and Inspector

Byrnes, the world-famous chief of the New York detectives, who supplies a story from his own diary. The interviews with representative men are charmingly done, and the series of articles on remarkable riots is one of the greatest interest. The descriptive articles included under the general heading of "How it is Done," deal with a variety of subjects, while the general articles and the short stories are almost innumerable.

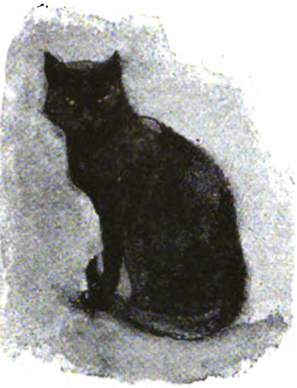
LITTLE FOLKS.



There is something in a name after all, and the gentleman who suggested the title of this delightful magazine for little folks deserved to be as well rewarded as he who hit upon the title of the most widely-known restaurant in St. James's. The volume before us shows how absolutely this magazine fits the wants of little folks — little folks of varying sizes and capabilities. The "Editor's Pocket-book" alone is replete with everything that little folks can desire in the way of literature. There is hardly a subject on which it does not treat, from owls to potatoes, or from asses to Zulus. Yet this is but one item out of many in the volume. There is fiction by Mrs. L. T. Meade, and a host of other first-class authors, who feel that after all the training of a baby-brain is one of the greatest and most delightful of human responsibilities; there is poetry for those who disdain prose-reading, or to whose infantile minds the jingling of the rhymes is attractive; there is music, there are puzzles, there are bits for Sunday, and bits for every-day. And as to pictures—there are hosts of them, drawn and engraved by the very best artists in their very best style. The mite whose picture we reproduce, as she looked when about to have her picture taken, is but one from a multitude of such darlings (on paper) whose influence upon their equally charming counterparts cannot possibly be other than good.

CONCERNING CATS.*

CATS! The very word, ejected in sibilant, *sotto voce* tones, is highly suggestive; suggestive, we blush to say, of pussy's natural enemies—dogs, and naughty boys! Even from more philosophic man the cat tribe draw "curses not loud but deep," in recognition of their own peculiar "music of the moon." Some have even charged them with a lack of the quality of humour in this respect, else would they not produce such absurd simulations of the human voice in serenading the *inamorata* of their affections; nor, above all, choose the silent hours for the unabashed, ghastly caricature. Feelings of this kind may, perhaps, account for the proposal, endorsed by many, to put a tax on cats, and make them contribute their quota to the Imperial Exchequer. Still, the preponderance of sentiment is in Kitty's favour. Witness this book! For here we have collected pages, not of mere prose, but of gracious and eloquent verse, all speaking in the praise of "She." Gray, Gay, Wordsworth, Cowper, Heine, Baudelaire, and many more, swell the list of admirers in lines, many of which are familiar to most of us. The editor has been fortunate enough to secure Calverley's amusing lines for his collection, as well as Mr. Cosmo Monkhouse's delightful the "Cat and Canary," which is printed here for the first time. Few things in the book are more laughable than the Carolina Darkie's song "I Kilt 'er Cat," by Miss Virginia Boyle. The pictures of pussy which Mr. A. Tomson supplies represent the companion of man in every position of quiescence. They are drawings of the "blot" order, but very clever "blots" of their kind.



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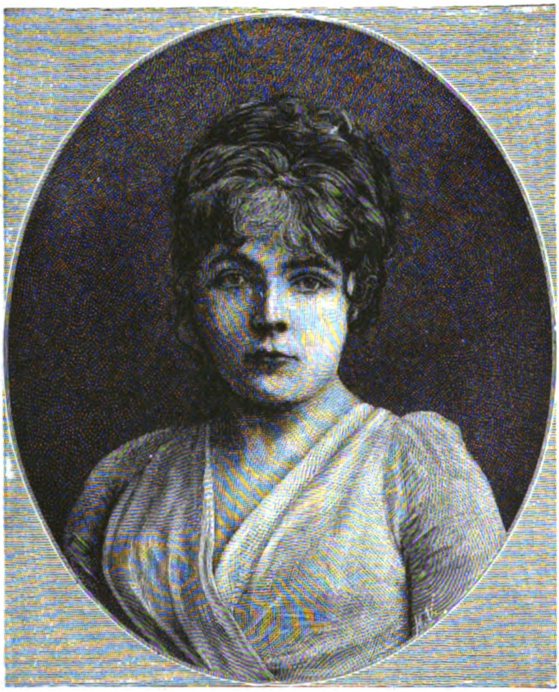
* *Concerning Cats:* a Book of Poems by many authors, selected by G. R. Tomson, and illustrated by A. Tomson. Cameo Series. (T. F. Unwin.)

JULES BASTIEN-LEPAGE.*



MARIE BASHKIRTSEFF.

FROM whatever point of view we may regard Bastien-Lepage's art, his premature death at the age of thirty-six was a loss not only to France but to artistic Europe. He belonged to the school of modern realism as it is called, and was one of its most powerful exponents if not its chief. What he saw that he painted, vividly, photographically, with an unerring touch. The critics complained of his perspective, or his lack of atmosphere, or the commonplaceness of his subjects, but in time he won the position for which he was striving. His picture of his grandfather exhibited in the Salon of 1874, first convinced the world of his undoubted powers, and his "Communiante," Joan of Arc, Beggar (of which we give an engraving), and his portraits of Sarah Bernhardt and the Prince of Wales added so many more laurels to his crown. M. Theuriet writes from the stand-point of friend and admirer, and Mr. Clausen, who views Bastien-Lepage with the more impartial eyes of an English artist, is hardly less appreciative. To balance the favourable opinion, Mr. W. Sickert of the New English Art Club protests against the admiration lavished upon Lepage, and declares him to have been a mere *salonnier* and "machiner," and at the best hardly more than a meritorious workman. The last paper in the volume consists of a study of Marie Bashkirtseff, illustrated with reproductions of her works, by Mathilde Blind. The deep and melancholy interest excited in this remarkable woman by the publication of her Journal, is within the recollection of all, and adds particular point to this review of her career as a Parisian artist.

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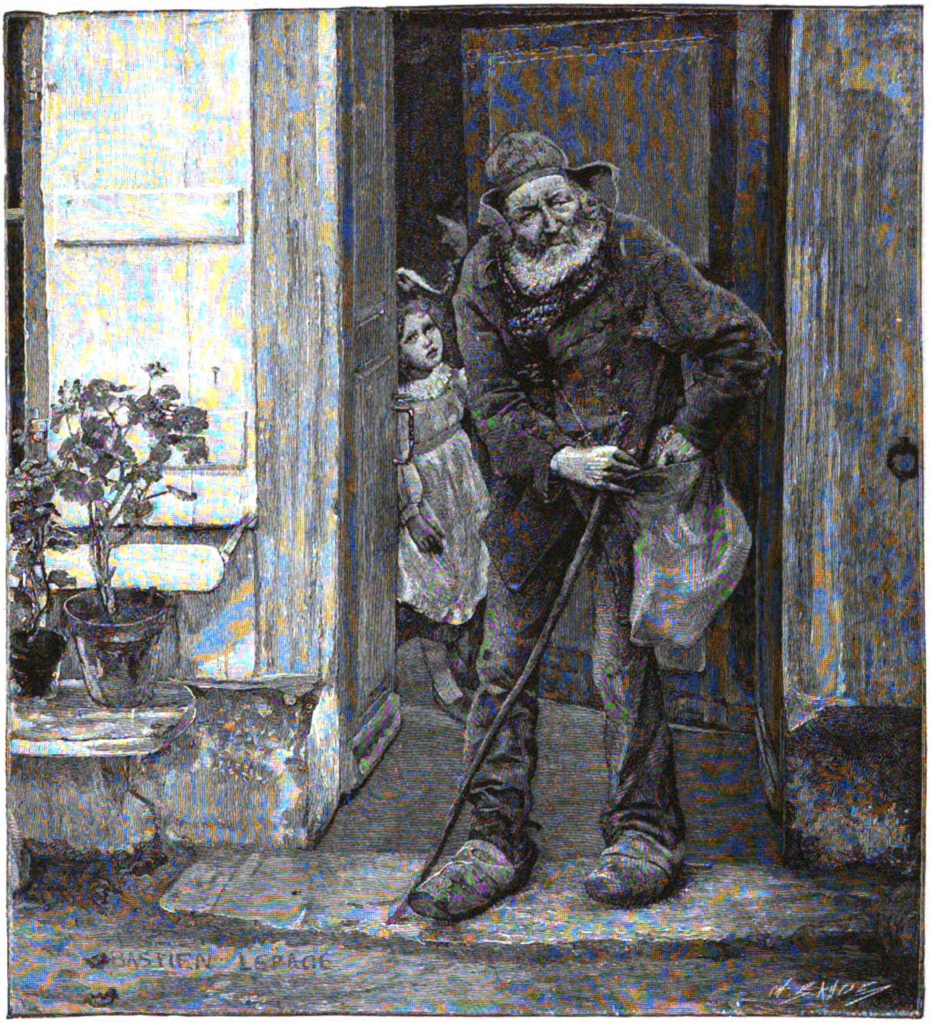
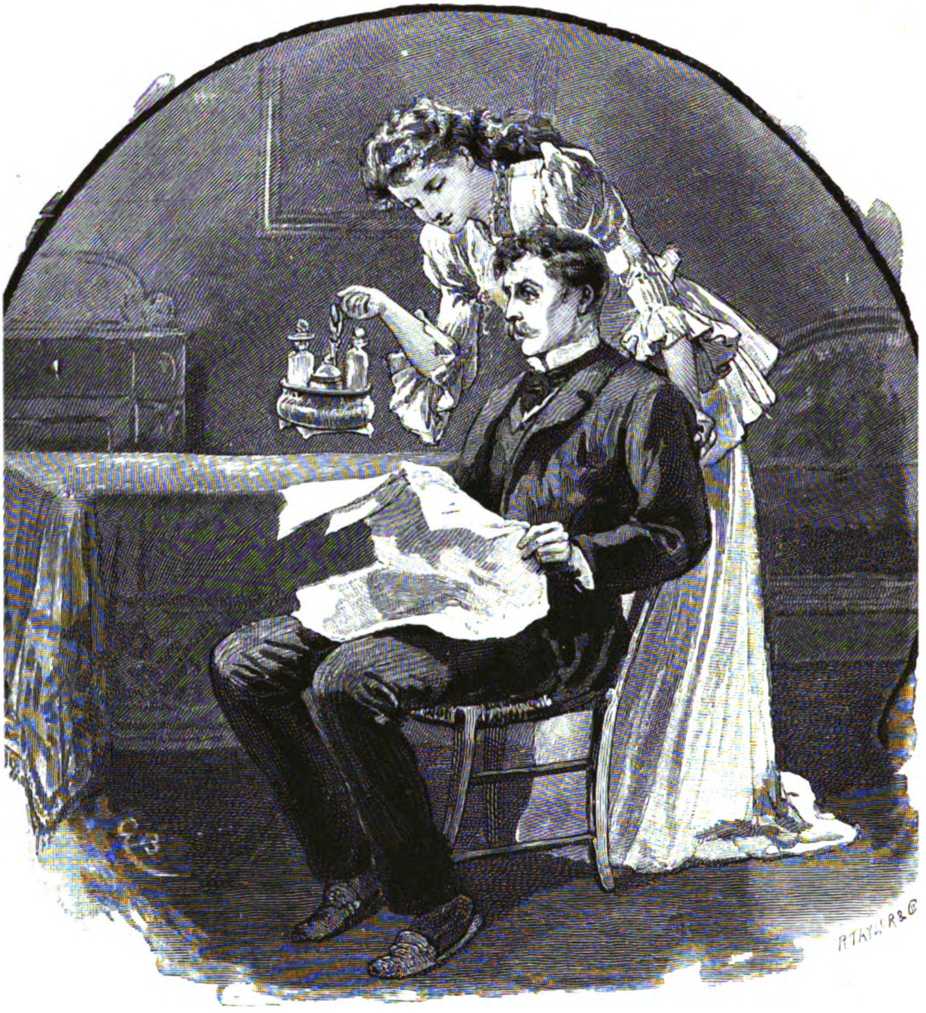
* *Jules Bastien-Lepage and his Art.* By A. Theuriet and others. Illustrated. (T. F. Unwin.)



The Beggar.

Art and Song. A series of original highly-finished Steel Engravings, accompanied by a selection of English Poems. Edited by Robert Bell. New Edition. (J. S. Virtue & Co.)—We may, without any uncalled-for exaggeration, express our admiration of this beautiful work. The selection of poetry forming the text of the volume exhibits the judgment of a critic in choosing such examples from our native poets as should best fall in with the spirit and character of the volume. The pieces chosen are a representative anthology from popular no less than celebrated writers, and form appropriate accompaniments in verse to the illustrations adorning the volume. These last are, of course, its chief attraction. Turner's Nemi and Tynemouth engraved by Miller, and the same artist's Folkestone and Whitby engraved by Cousen, and Goodall's and Willmore's beautiful reproductions in line after David Roberts, Corbould and Collins—how exquisite they are! When shall we have such works of art in England again? There is nothing surprising in so elegant and delightful a publication reaching a second edition. The volume will always command attention, and all concerned in its production have acquitted themselves with great distinction, and have achieved a success that is well deserved.

THE LEISURE HOUR AND THE SUNDAY AT HOME.



These two established favourites are once more placed before the public by the Religious Tract Society. Even their external appearance indicates the care bestowed upon them, and the determination of the publishers to satisfy the growing demand for something more artistic than the sober black and grey cloth which formed the binding of these volumes not so very many years ago. Both volumes are now handsomely bound, and are rendered outwardly attractive by colour and gilding. Internally they are all that the most fastidious need desire—well printed, and richly illustrated by first rate artists. Of the moral and educational value of either book it is surely unnecessary to speak at length. The old high tone that has always distinguished them is noticeable still even to the most casual reader, and every page gives evidence of the care bestowed by the editors. The principal serial story in the *Leisure Hour* is "The Story of Francis Cludde," by Stanley Weyman, whose "House of the Wolf" will be favourable remembered. Dealing with the troubled times of Queen Mary's reign the author has plenty of scope for the descriptive writing in which he so excels, and the story throughout is full of matter of historical interest. The papers on the statesmen of Europe—Austria, Hungary, France, and Italy,—are ably written, and Mr. W. J. Hardy, F.S.A., contributes a series of papers on the handwriting of our Kings and Queens which are full of reproductions from royal warrants, letters, and other documents. Biography—apart from the series already referred to—is, as usual, a leading subject, and there are papers on all varieties of subject by well known writers. The poetry is decidedly above the average of more or less fugitive work of the kind, and the "varieties" are full of valuable and interesting information.

In the *Sunday at Home*—which has for frontispiece a charming reproduction in colours of the picture "The Fading Leaf," by James Grace, R.S.B.A.—the chief serial story is "A Story of Constance," by D. Alcock, a charming tale of life in Northern France in the fifteenth century, and the Council of Constance, but this is supplemented by a host of excellent short stories, the object of the whole volume being ever borne in mind—that

of providing thoroughly good, sound literature by the best writers avaliable for Sunday reading at home. Biography is, as in the sister volume, a prominent feature, some charming sketches being given of—among others—Carmen Sylva, the late Archbishops Tait and Magee, and Catherine Booth. More important is the long life of Galileo Galilei, and the supposed conflict between science and religion, while equally interesting in another line, is the series of articles on "Heroes of the Goodwin Sands." The long series on "Religious Life and Thought in France," illustrated by excellent portraits, is another most valuable feature of the volume, and the same may be said of the articles on "Social Life among the Assyrians and Babylonians." The miscellaneous articles on mission work, and religious life and work in all parts of the world, are written by men and women who have had actual experience of the different spheres described, while younger readers will find many pages specially devoted to subjects interesting to their less developed tastes.

The Women of the French Salons. By Amelia G. Mason. (T. Fisher Unwin.)—The Women of the French Salons have formed the subject of so many books that the reader almost instinctively imagines that any book dealing with the particular epoch of history made by them, must be flat, stale, unprofitable. Yet he is wrong. For here we have a work, printed with all the delicacy and beauty for which the De Vinne press is so justly famed, dealing not only ostensibly, but ostentatiously, with the period bounded on the one hand by the "Précieuses," and on the other by Madame de Stael, and certainly in nowise stale or profitless. The book deals with the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries of the history of France, those centuries which had their origin in the Hôtel Rambouillet, and their close in the salons of du Deffand and de Stael. Of the portraits—dainty reproductions from old engravings, sometimes in black and white, sometimes in red—it would be impossible to speak too highly. And the letterpress is on all fours with the portraits. It just tells the reader enough—just hints at the vices and corruption that underlay that delicately moulded mask, at the worms that were quietly devouring the rotting flesh beneath the polished wood-work of the coffin, the burnished gilding of the shrine. Yet there is only a hint, no more. And he who chooses to admire the marvellous workmanship of the shrine, as seen in these reproductions, need not, unless he choose, detect the faintest odour of the carrion beneath.

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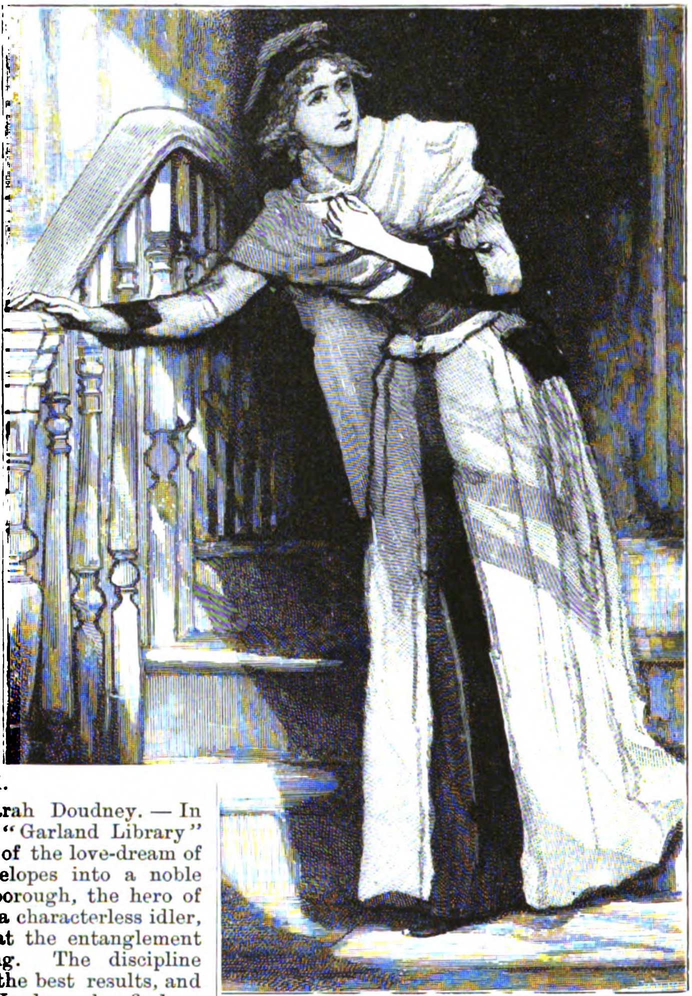
The Penance of Portia James. By Tasma. (W. Heinemann.)—Portia's story—and it is startling enough—should be a warning to girls, or rather to their parents, not to encourage too early engagements. It was the heroine's misfortune to be betrothed at sixteen to a man twenty years her senior, and a colonial Lothario to boot. He could also lie when it was necessary, and the sensual side of his nature is, we suppose, indicated by the "tasting lips," which are continually referred to as an index of his character. But the individual who creates the most sensation and influence in the story is the *muta persona* of a baby! Never, since the introduction of the infant in Fielding's immortal novel did a baby effect such excitement and horror, as did the unwelcome appearance of John Morrison's illegitimate offspring, when presented to his bride upon her wedding day. It was too shocking. But in the end, the luckless infant brings about the reconciliation of the couple, and the sudden death of its mother strikes the chord of womanly compassion in Portia's heart, and it is not struck in vain.

MESSRS. HUTCHINSON & CO.'S PUBLICATIONS.

Dare Lorimer's Heritage. **By Evelyn Everett Green.—There is no lack of exciting interest in this story of family jealousy and misunderstanding. Bold and dashing Dare Lorimer, who certainly to some extent merits his *sobriquet* of "Hotspur," has by untoward chance always been looked upon as a black sheep by his relations, and at last his father is brought to believe that he has laid hands upon his brother, with a view to succeeding to the entailed property. Dare is induced to sign a deed cutting off the entail, but it is perhaps unnecessary to add that his reputation is entirely cleared at last, and Colonel Lorimer again makes him the heir. The course of the deep and firm love between Dare and Crieff Haviland begins when they are children and ends fittingly with their marriage and taking possession of the home of the heroine's childhood.**



From "Dare Lorimer's Heritage."

Gatty Fenning. **By Sarah Doudney. — In this fresh volume of the "Garland Library" the author tells the story of the love-dream of a "wild girl," who developes into a noble woman. Warren Mainsborough, the hero of her first girlish liking, is a characterless idler, and it was fortunate that the entanglement never came to anything. The discipline undergone by Gatty has the best results, and in the curate, Bennet Vardye, she finds a husband in every way worthy of her. The sudsidiary characters are well sketched.**

Where Two Ways Meet. **By Sarah Doudney. —The little waif Dinah, who in the first chapter of this book is deserted and left to shift for herself by her father, the tramp "Daddy," and "Sue," soon finds a friend in little Lilly Marlow, who induces her parents to give the wanderer a place in their home. When the two children grow to womanhood, their love affairs, and those of Miss Aileen and Bernard Airlie, will interest young lady readers. The discovery that Dinah's father is a burglar does not deter the artist, Alfred Warren, from marrying her, but she never forgets whose child she is, and always feels that she belongs "not only to her husband and children, but also to those who were as poor and wretched as she had been once." Miss Doudney's qualities of sound principle, pure taste, and attractive style are as manifest as ever in her present story.**

The Family Difficulty. **By Sarah Doudney.— Phœbe Valzell is the "family difficulty" in question. Her grandfather, the Earl of Silverburn, dislikes her for her parents' sake,** as he could never forgive his son a foolish marriage. However, when she decides no longer to be a burden on the Ringstone family, but leaves the vicarage which was her early home and applies to the Earl to assist her to become a governess, she soon gains his heart, and shines forth as a light in London Society. No one can resist the "Young Samaritan." Phœbe's marriage to Captain Heatherwood realises the dream of her girlhood, and for her sake her husband presents Mr. Ringstone with a living worth a thousand a year. Some other title than that of "Lady Clarendon" should have been chosen for one of the characters.

The Cruise of the Crystal Boat. By Gordon Stables, M.D.—"Wild, weird, and wonderful" indeed—to use Dr. Stables' own words—is this story of the stirring doings of the mystic prince, Salem Ben Roo-ee. The author fairly meets Jules Verne on his own ground, and we should say will not be adjudged defeated by the ingenious Frenchman in the opinion of our boys. The youngster does not exist who could fail to be enthralled by Salem Ben Roo-ee's adventures in Iceland, Siberia, the "wonderland of South America," and divers other regions.

The Little Marine. By Florence Marryat.—Miss Marryat has the gift of writing for boys as well as for older readers. Her present story has the advantage of being founded on fact, and the naval and military details are taken from the diary of a Royal Marine officer who was present during the progress of the Simono-seki war in Japan. The story of the little "Japanese Lily," who is found on the field of battle clinging to the dead body of her father, and taken care of by the young hero, Charlie Harrison, is told with pathetic grace, but we wish that it could have been made to end happily.

Fifty-two Further Stories for Boys and *Fifty-two Further Stories for Girls.*—Under the editorship of Mr. Alfred H. Miles the contents of these two handsome and well-printed volumes fully come up to the standard of those that have preceded them in the "Fifty-two" library. For the boys G. A. Henty, Ascott R. Hope, Robert Overton, and David Ker, among others, contribute stories of travel, adventure, school-days, and sport, together with an interesting and amusing assortment of "Strange Tales" and "Old Time Stories." Equally good is the list of authors who cater for the girls, including, as it does, such names as those of Rosa Mulholland, Sarah Doudney, Edward A. Rand, and G. C. Eggleston. The tales of school and domestic life in this volume are balanced by those telling how heroic girls can be in scenes of danger, and there are also stories "From Abroad" and "From Wonderland." The boys' book contains seven full-page illustrations, and the other five.

The Poets and the Poetry of the Century. Edited by Alfred H. Miles.—The second volume of this series takes us from Southey to Shelley, and the third from Keats to the first Lord Lytton. Within this range are of course included many names which cannot be called great—Beddoes, Atherstone, and Motherwell are examples—but an easy answer to cavillers is that an encyclopædia should be an encyclopædia. The plan adopted by Mr. Miles is to represent each singer in his variety, and the well-known writers he has relied on for the biographical details and critical summaries have done their work as well as it could have been done. On the whole, high as is the praise which the series has called forth, it is in our opinion thoroughly deserved.

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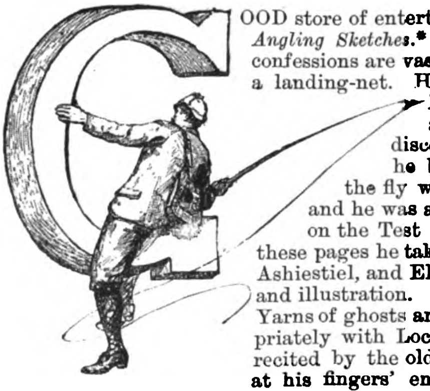
Church Lore Gleanings. By T. F. Thistleton Dyer. (Innes & Co.)—This is a delightfully gossipy book on all sorts of matters connected with church lore. There are legends and traditions of all kinds; hints on church discipline, church bells, baptismal customs, memorials of the dead, church pews, lychnoscopes, and a hundred odds and ends. The parish is not forgotten too, and all varieties of functionaries, from church-wardens and parish clerks to parish bulls, come within the writer's scope. The sketches form a most valuable addition to the book, which is readable from end to end.

The Lady of the Lake. By Sir Walter Scott, Bart. (A. & C. Black.)—This new edition of Sir Walter Scott's *Lady of the Lake* is chiefly memorable by reason of the fact that it contains all the author's introductions and various readings, the editorial notes, and by reason of its illustrations. Indeed the latter are amply sufficient in themselves to make the volume one to be desired. The designs by Sir John Gilbert and Mr. Birket Foster are delightfully dainty, and the names of J. W. Whymper and Edmund Evans are sufficient guarantees for the engraving. The whole of the notes are most carefully printed, and the details of paper, print, and binding are such as will satisfy the most exacting critic.



GOOD store of entertainment awaits the reader of Mr. Lang's last book, *Angling Sketches.** He confesses that he is but a "duffer;" but his confessions are vastly amusing. He never keeps a fly-book, a knife, or a landing-net. His wading-boots let in the water, and he usually leaves his reel, if not his rod, at home. If he catches a trout, he conceals it so successfully, that it is not discoverable afterwards, even by the finder. "Once," he boasts, "I did manage to make a cast correctly; the fly went over the fish's nose; he rose; I hooked him; and he was a great silly brute of a grayling." Angling for trout on the Test or the Itchen is the author's ideal of fishing; but in these pages he takes us to the Borders of his boyhood and the North. Ashiestiel, and Elibank, and Scott's country figure here both in text and illustration. Loch Leven, also, with its memories of Queen Mary. Yarns of ghosts and murders and witchcraft seem to fall in very appropriately with Loch Awe—which at least is "aweful" in name—as recited by the old boatman of the place, who had all its traditions at his fingers' ends. The chapter entitled "The Lady or the Salmon?" is tragically droll; the "Double Alibi" has a touch of the supernatural about it; and "The Bloody Doctor" is not a story of a cruel sawbones, but of a particular kind of fly irresistible to trout. Mr. Murdoch's etchings are excellent, and his drawings of fish as good as anything that has been done in that line.

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* *Angling Sketches.* By Andrew Lang. With Etchings and Illustrations by W. G. B. Murdoch. (Longmans & Co.)

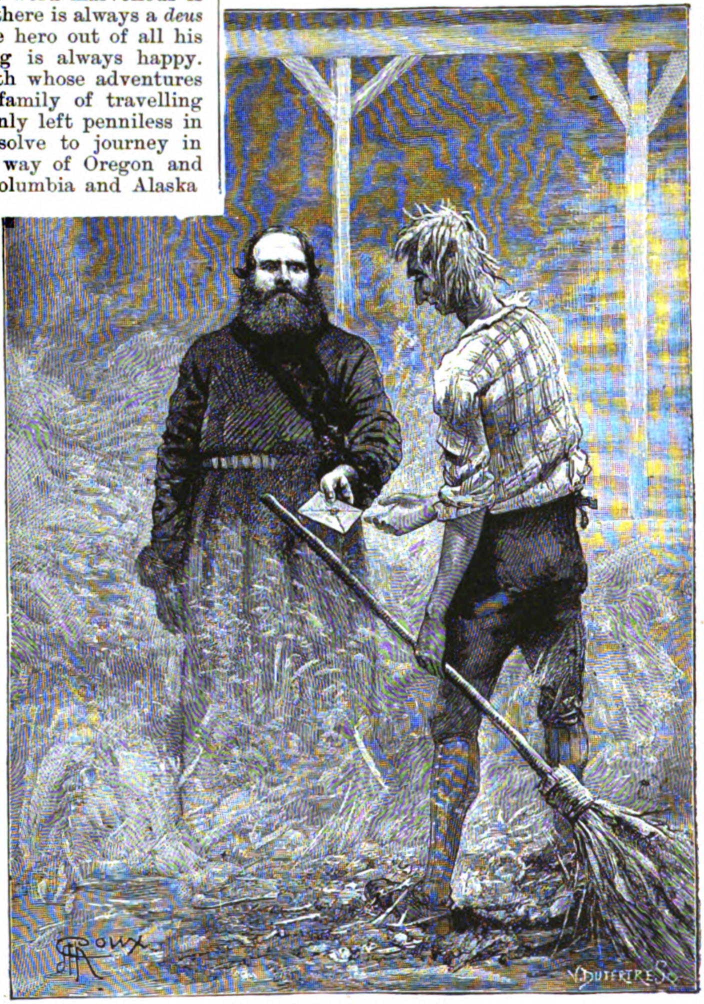
MESSRS. LOW, MARSTON, & CO.'S BOOKS.

MESSRS. SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, & CO. issue a number of seasonable books, beautifully illustrated and most attractively bound. The principal feature in all of them is that they are full of the most fearful and wonderful adventures. M. Jules Verne gives the keynote, and the other authors join in with a chorus that will assuredly charm the youthful mind.

César Cascabel. **By Jules Verne.**—A new book by M. Jules Verne forms to many young readers almost as essential a feature of Christmas as the turkey and plum-pudding. No matter what particular subject may form the mainstay of his plot, we are always sure of adventures for which the word marvellous is quite inadequate, while there is always a *deus ex machinâ* who helps the hero out of all his troubles, and the ending is always happy. The *famille* Cascabel, with whose adventures this book deals, are a family of travelling show-people, who, suddenly left penniless in California, heroically resolve to journey in their van to France by way of Oregon and Washington to British Columbia and Alaska across Behring's Strait on the ice, and so through Russia to France—a trip of three thousand three hundred and twenty leagues! And the trip is safely made, thanks to the genius of M. Verne. The book is delightfully illustrated with such pictures as that which we reproduce.

How Martin Drake found his Father; or, Wanderers in the West. **By G. Norway.—Mr. Norway's new tale of adventure deals with the days of white and black slavery during the early life of the American Colonies. Martin, the son of a Devonshire labourer, who desired to be rich, and who did not take the wisest way to become so, gets accidentally among the smugglers, of whom his father is one, and is sworn in. Poor little Fanny, Martin's young aunt, a parish apprentice, is brutally flogged by a farmer, and dies; the former is thrashed by old Drake, and in revenge imprisons the latter, and gets him transported. Martin, left with only a young brother, goes out in search of his father, and the remainder of the book is occupied with the adventures which he encounters in the quest.**

Roger Ingleton, Minor, **by Talbot Baines Reed, is a well-written story for boys, which deals with the life and adventures of a young man of nineteen, suddenly bereft of his father by a paralytic stroke. A mystery is connected** with the family, in the shape of an elder brother who fought with the old father once, was beaten, ran away, and is supposed to be dead. There is the knot which the author cleverly unravels, with the aid of Roger's tutor—a charmingly quaint character—and the unravelling is so good that we will not **spoil it by cutting the threads.**



From "Cesar Cascabel."

The Astec Treasurehouse, **by Thomas A. Janvier, has deservedly attained the dignity of a new and cheaper edition, for this "romance of contemporaneous antiquity" is altogether a most delightful book. Its marvels are so utterly marvellous, yet so well described, that the reader is transported into a new world, and may revel therein to his heart's content.**

The Boy Settlers, by Noah Brooks, is a capital tale of early times in Kansas. The settlers are five in number, three boys and two men, who take up their quarters in Kansas, after journeying from Lee County, in Illinois. Their adventures in their new home are numerous and exciting, and the illustrations by Mr. W. A. Rogers are as good as Mr. Brooks's descriptions.

An Inca Queen. By J. Evelyn.—The story of this Inca queen is dated back something like half a century; but in the case of a story of this kind the date matters very little, especially as public attention has lately been so strongly directed to the scene—South America. Its heroes—boys, of course—are lost in Peru, and while there, meet with Indians, savages—white ones, an Inca queen, the lovely heroine of the story, and a high priest of the sun. The adventures are thrilling, but they all end happily.

The Rudder Grangers Abroad, and Other Stories. By Frank R. Stockton.—Mr. Stockton's descriptive powers have stood him in good stead in this collection of short stories—six in number—and more especially in the first, entitled "Euphemia among the Pelicans." The capture of the shark in this story is delightfully funny, and in all the tales there is a strong vein of humour that will delight adult readers every whit as much as the younger generation.

A Dark Place of the Earth, by Alfred Clark, is one of the "wonder-book" class. Its hero, an "end-of-the-century" magistrate in Ceylon, goes out for an hour's fishing, and is wafted away to an island inhabited by descendants of the heroes of a sea-fight in 1633 or thereabout, who preserve the customs of a couple of centuries ago. His adventures on this fog enveloped spot are fearful and wonderful indeed, and it is nothing surprising that at their conclusion the adventurer has an attack of brain fever.

Prairie and Bush. By George Dunderdale.—This is decidedly a curious story, in three parts, and it will puzzle the reader to decide which part is the most curious. The prefatory chapter is one of the oddest imaginable, and this leads up to equally quaint adventures, with plenty of love and plenty of murder. The second part leads us to prairie adventures, with a murder at the finish; and the third deals with the "bush" and the gold-diggings of Australia. It is, however, admirably told all through, and will certainly keep its readers awake.

Harper's Young People. (Low, Marston & Co.)—Last year, and the year before, the prominent feature of this most deservedly popular volume was a series of plates beautifully printed in colours, dealing with the uniforms of the British army at home and in the Indian native forces. This year a similar series of plates gives the young readers an idea of the "Wild Sports of the World;" the place of honour in the frontispiece being given to the one sport dear above all others to English men and English women — fox-hunting; the scene chosen being that at the covert side. The literary contents of the volume are as excellent as ever, and as varied; while in bulk they would form enough for any boy's or girl's bookshelf if separately printed. The serial stories by Kirk Munroe, Howard Pyle and others, are admirably written and illustrated; full of adventure and excitement, yet always thoroughly healthy in tone. The short stories are as good as the long ones, and of course more numerous; while articles are given on every variety of subject, from "sun-dials" to "skating-rinks," or from "babies" to "baseball." There is plenty of material also for inventive minds to ponder over and carry into the region of actual fact if they can; and dreamy spirits can find matter for meditation in the poetry that is scattered broadcast through this most excellent of volumes for young people.

Our Armies. By Richard Simkin. (Low, Marston & Co.)—The five sections into which this book is divided deal respectively with our cavalry at home, our infantry and artillery, our Indian cavalry, our Indian artillery and infantry, and our armies of the past. In each section are many coloured full-page and other illustrations, which have evidently been designed with the most scrupulous regard for accuracy according to the latest gospel of Whitehall; while the letterpress is commendably brief and full of carefully considered detail.

Lorna Doone. By R. D. Blackmore. (Low, Marston & Co.)—There are, according to the author's preface to the sixth edition of "Lorna Doone," few things more surprising than the success of "this simple tale." The words were written something near twenty years ago, yet if "this simple tale" had not succeeded, it would have been far more suprising. Truth is always simple, and the tale depends more upon its truth than its simplicity. Hence its success. The newest edition is in every way nicely got up, and its success will no doubt be as great as that of its predecessors.

Sermons for Daily Life. By The Rev. Canon Diggle.—Canon Diggle is nothing if not practical, and this volume of sermons for daily life needs no preface for the people of Mossley Hill beyond the mention of the name of the writer. The power of habit and influence, the evils of intolerance (with the due appreciation of Cardinal Newman) the power of injustice, and so forth, are topics whereon Canon Diggle can speak as well as any man. And he does.

Mary Harrison's Guide to Modern Cookery (Low, Marston & Co.), is just the book that the author of "The Skilful Cook" was likely to write, and, we may add, just what the unskilful cook was likely, and is likely, to want. It is, above all things, practical. It tells one exactly what to do in order to bring about such results as a thoroughly eatable meal, even looked at from the high gastronomical standpoint. Surely no more is wanted.

At the Antipodes. By G. Verschuur.—Everything Australasian and South American is just now of peculiar interest, for Australian affairs are just now of interest to us all, owing to the great questions pending on the other side, and South America is also one of the great bones of contention at the moment. This account of travels in both spheres during 1888-89 is therefore especially welcome. The book is delightfully translated by Miss Mary Daniels, and the route map and illustrations are as trustworthy as the text.

The Secret of the Magian; or, the Mystery of Ecbatana, by A. Laurie, is another book which deals, rather after the style of M. Verne, with matters that are distinctly marvellous. Lieut. Gayon and the other members of a French mission visit some excavations at Ecbatana, where they find an old magician, who allows two of the excavators to visit his home in the rocks. There are found all the latest scientific wonders, and more, already known to the aged fire-worshipper under other names. The most terrible dangers are encountered in these subterranean depths, but escape comes at last, the magician dies, and his lonely daughter becomes civilised. We reproduce one of the many illustrations, which are of considerable merit.

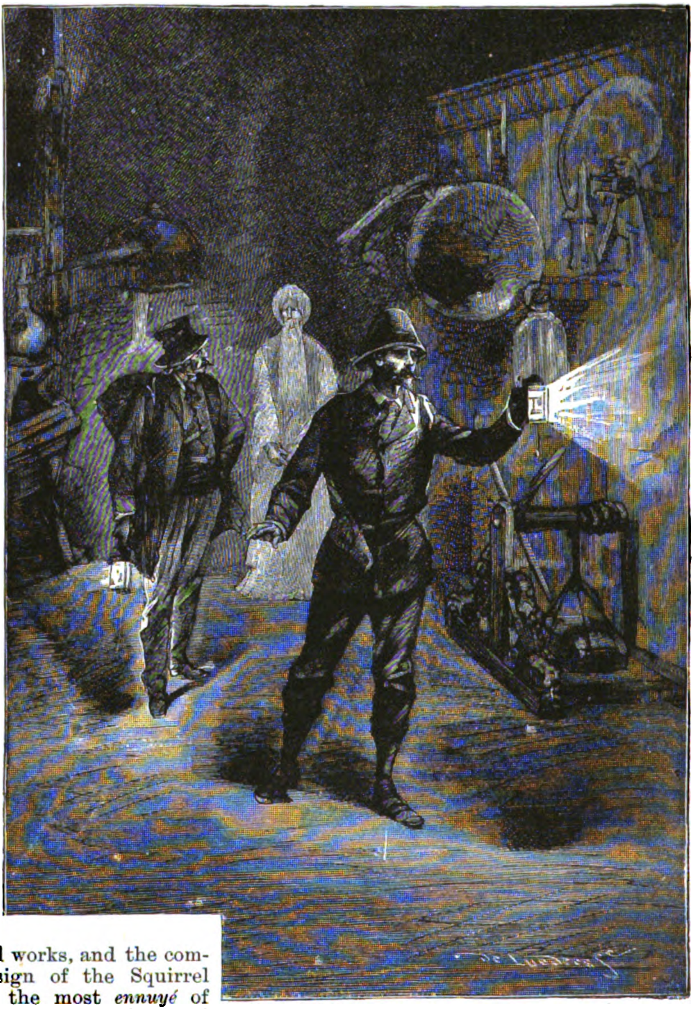
Noah's Ark; or, Mornings in the Zoo, by Phil Robinson, is an old friend under a new guise. Mr. Robinson is one of the quaintest and cleverest members of an utterly quaint and clever family, and whether he is discussing what the dodo said to King Solomon, or the ant which breaks its heart if its doorstep is dirty, he is still—quaint and clever. The misguided acclimatisation of the white ant, and the love of the ostriches for waltzing are alike outside the studies of Cuvier and Buffon—nay, they alike were missed by the researches of Mr. Wood and Mr. Jefferies—but are both within the purview of Mr. Robinson, whose book is entirely charming.

The Squirrel Inn. By Frank R. Stockton.—Mr. Stockton could not be uninteresting if he tried, so far as we may judge from his published works, and the company gathered at the sign of the Squirrel cannot fail to interest the most *ennuyé* of readers. His Greek scholar, and the landlord of the Squirrel are as good as any of Mr. Stockton's characters, if not better than their predecessors, and the love story connected with Walter Lodloe, the literary man, and Mrs. Christie, the ex-Vassar girl, is quite delightful.

Doctor Huguet. By Ignatius Donnelly. (Low, Marston & Co.)—Mr. Donnelly's novel will be read with no little interest by a wide circle of readers, to whom the writer is memorable by his discussion of the great Shaksperio-Baconian cryptogram and "Atlantis." His latest work is on quite a different plane from these, but emphatically clever, and emphatically *à la*—end of the century! It has the double charm of a tale of adventure and of a novel. And the moral is that the shouting mob who yesterday slew the martyr

> "In silent awe returns
> To gather up the ashes
> For history's cold urns."

Women and Their Work. By Veva Karsland. (Low, Marston & Co.)—This "small and modest book" as its author describes it, is also a delightful one—full of the freshness that an intellectual woman seems especially able to impart to her writing. Full of downright practical commonsense, and theories that are obviously the result of hard thinking, the papers of which the volume consists are full of new ideas concerning the employments already successfully undertaken by women. There is a most charming absence of cant and "cliquiness" (Heaven forgive the word!) about the whole, and the *practical* side of the questions discussed is ever uppermost in the mind of the authoress. Her information has evidently been gained at first hand, and the reader, as he (or she) lays down the book, will involuntarily exclaim with dear old Rip Van Winkle, "May she live long and prosper!"



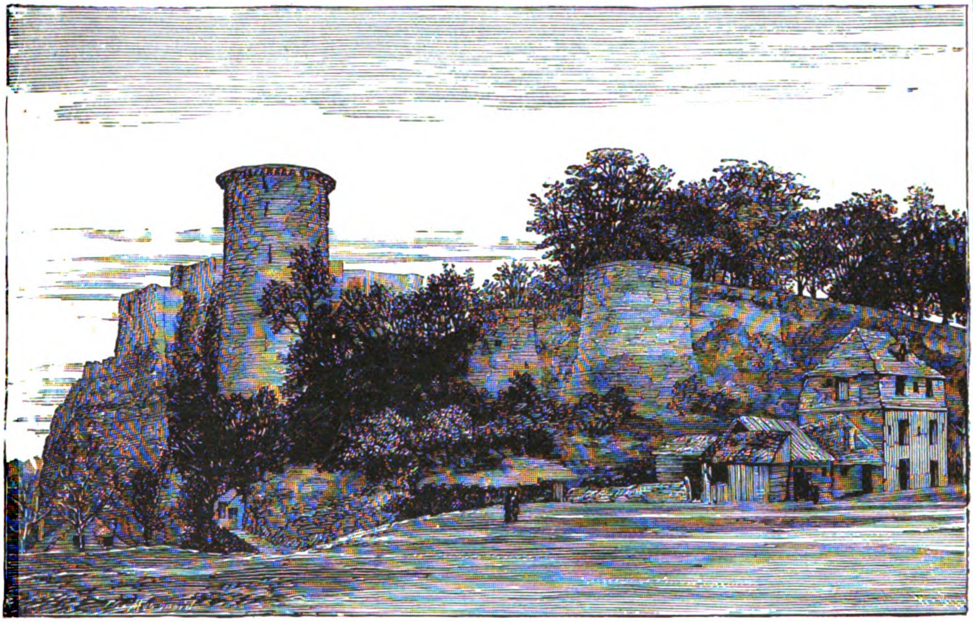
From "The Secret of the Magian."

Preachers of the Age. Living Theology. By the Most Reverend Edward White, Archbishop of Canterbury. (Low, Marston & Co.)—This volume of sermons by the head of the Church in England is sure of a wide circulation. It contains about a dozen sermons delivered by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury within the last fifteen years or less, on a number of the most pressing questions of the day. That they are sound and scholarly need not be said, and more, perhaps, need not be said now. Thoughtful and reverent, they are yet well calculated to meet the inquiring spirit of the age.

A Transalantic Holiday. By T. Fitz-patrick, M.A. (Low, Marston & Co.)—These notes of a visit to the Eastern States of America, very fairly fulfil the old motto of La Fontaine setting forth that there is no need to exhaust a subject—*On rien doit prendre que la fleur.* They literally sip the cream of their subject, and tell exactly what are the impressions gained by one who travelled with his eyes open through the principal States of New England. The illustrations of the text are thoroughly up to date, and there are a host of readers—gathered alike from those who have seen the localities described, and those who have not—who will be glad to possess these charmingly written, and charmingly illustrated notes.

The Valley Council. By Percy Clarke. (Low, Marston & Co.)—These "leaves from the journal of Thomas Bateman of Canbelego Station, N.S.W.," will serve a very useful purpose in teaching our stay-at-home friends something of Australia. It is an odd thing, considering that we are within a month's sail of the antipodes, how very little most people know of the States which are likely to be federated before another year is over, under some such title as "The Commonwealth of Australia." The reports which appear from time to time in the Australian press from those who have been for a short time "in the old country," show how crass our ignorance on this subject is, and Mr. Clarke's book should disperse the mist of illusion to some extent.

THE STORY OF THE NATIONS.



FALAISE, BIRTHPLACE OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

WITH Miss Jewett's history of the Normans, the "Stories of the Nations" reach their twenty-ninth volume. Few series have been more ably written or more practically serviceable than this of Mr. Fisher Unwin's. To be sure, it would be difficult to find a set of histories of such length officered, as to its literary staff, by such eminent names as those who have contributed to their production. The appropriateness of the writer to his subject is in some cases one of unusual felicity. Professor Vambéry on Hungary, Canon Rawlinson on Ancient Egypt, Mr. Stanley Lane Poole on Turkey and on the Moors, Mr. Morfill on Russia—are instances of the aptness of work and workman that we remark upon. Professor Masson's Mediæval France, and Professor Mahaffy's Empire of Alexander are further cases in point. Much, too, is gained by this particular treatment of history. While the mind fails from the vastness of the panorama to grasp the contemporaneous events in various countries, it is otherwise when the subject is grouped under particular national aspects. It then becomes in the truest sense of the word a "story," like the story of a family, whose fortunes we are able to follow—their rise, progress, period of power and perhaps of decline, or absorption by other races. The "Stories" of the English, or rather of those nations who have combined to form the nationality of our own country—the Dane, the Angles, and the Normans—have not, with the exception of the last-named, as yet figured in this series. We look forward to their appearance with special interest.

MESSRS. FREDERICK WARNE & CO.'S BOOKS.

MESSRS. WARNE & CO.'s books for the Christmas season are of the high class that previous issues from this house have led buyers to expect. As in past years, books for the young form the principal feature of the collection, and these are exceedingly well produced. The illustrations, two or three of which we reproduce, are, as may be seen from these specimens, exceedingly artistic, some of those in the children's picture-books being especially dainty. The painting books on specially prepared paper, with outlines for colouring and coloured examples, are really of considerable artistic merit, and the finish of all the books is most careful.

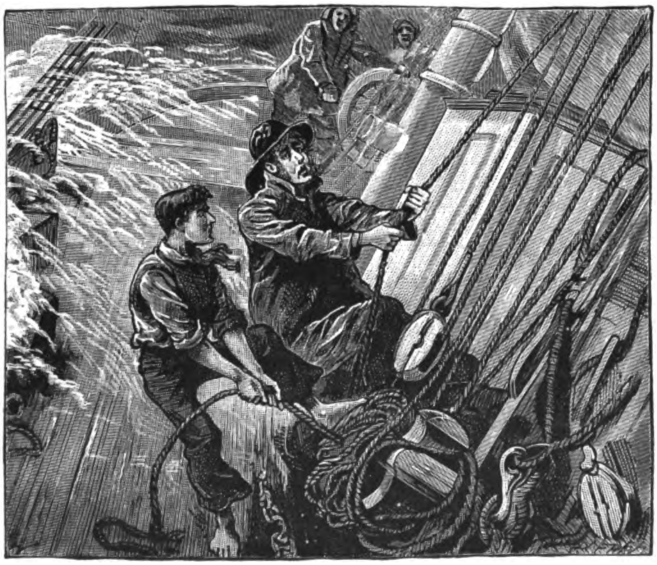
How he made his Fortune. By Julia A. de Witt.—This is an extremely well written book for boys, who will appreciate its healthy, manly tone. The setting is American, and there is a good deal of powerful description of low life in the Bowery and elsewhere. But apart from all this, the hero, Sandy Ferguson, is a really clever consistent study of the life-history of a lad, left alone in the world by the death of his mother at the age of eighteen, who goes to the mines, and from the first determines to stand boldly up for what is right. The power of labour unions, and the evil purposes to which they are at times put, are well shown, and the book contains vivid pictures of the miner's life.

For Light and Liberty. By Silas K. Hocking.—This author's books are so popular here that any new work from his pen is at once assured of a large circle of readers. This tale "For Light and Liberty" deals with the fortunes of a pair of young people, Eric Strome and Clarie Leicester, who in the end form a pair of lovers. Eric is a Christian lad, greatly to the annoyance of "Uncle Philip," who, trusting only to the teaching of what he terms philosophy, denies the truths of Christianity and tries hard to keep the boy in the darkness too. But it is vain, and God leads not Eric alone, but the would-be philosopher also, into "Light and Liberty."

Shirley. By Currer Bell.—A new edition of one of Miss Brontë's most delightful tales forms the latest addition to Messrs. Warne & Company's admirable "Crown" library. Like all the other volumes of the series, this is unexceptionable in get-up, its typography and general appearance being good enough to satisfy the most fastidious readers, and readers will be glad of this opportunity of renewing—or of making—acquaintance with the work.

The Girl's Home Companion. Edited by Mrs. Valentine.—A new edition of this book of "Pastimes in Work and Play" has become a necessity owing to the rapid changes in the fashion with regard to games of all descriptions that have taken place in the last few years. These changes, indeed, have involved so complete a revision that much of the book is entirely new, and the whole has been carefully brought to date. More than three hundred original illustrations serve to shew exactly what is the meaning of the directions for the various pastimes, and some of these are of a high order as may be seen from the one which we reproduce from the chats upon botany.

Masterman Ready. By Captain Marryat.—There needs no commendation of any new edition of a work by Captain Marryat. One could hardly help pitying an English boy—if such a boy existed—who did not revel in such books as "Masterman Ready," or "Midshipman Easy." The time of which they tell has long gone by, yet the tales of daring and adventure which they recount, appeal as vividly to the mind to-day as when they

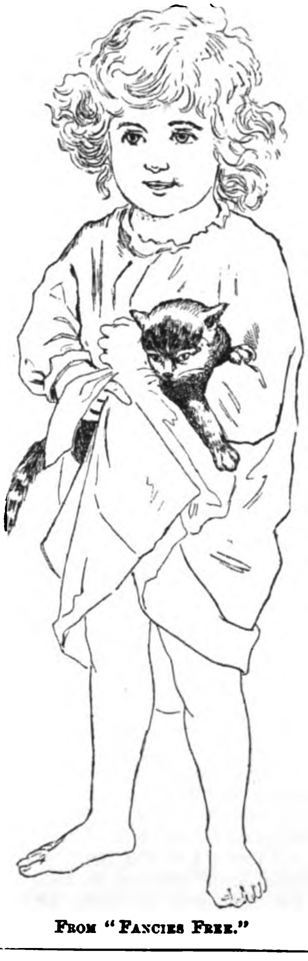


FROM "MASTERMAN READY."

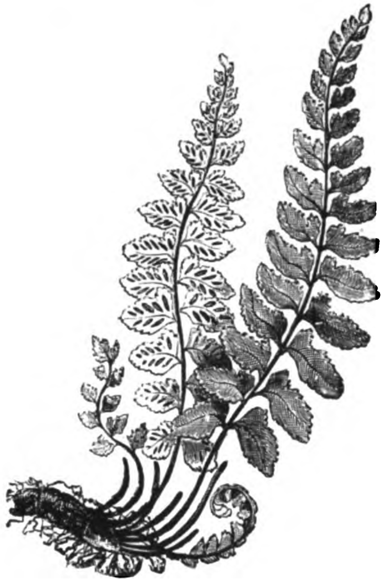
were first written, and it may safely be said that this latest addition to the "Prize Library," will be as eagerly read as its predecessors. The illustrations are full of life and vigour, as may be seen from the specimen we give.

Fancies Free. By E. L. Shute.—This is but one, and one of the most charming, of the many picture-books for children issued by Messrs. Warne & Co. this season. It is almost impossible to give any idea of the beauty and freshness of its delightful studies of child life, exquisitely printed as they are in colours, by any reproduction in black and white. Yet some notion may perhaps be gained by the cut we reproduce—or rather the part of a cut, for our page is not large enough to enable us to give the whole. The text—a series of short rhymed tales—is just what is wanted for such a book, and the versification is good enough for a more important work.

Little Merry Makers, by Constance Haslewood, will need no introduction to the many children (and adults, too?) who have been delighted by this talented artist's work in years that are gone. The verses by A. J. Daryll are tuneful and simple, and there is the same quaintness and delicacy in the pictures, that have always marked the artist's work. A word of praise must be bestowed upon the production of these latter, which are printed in a style that was impossible only a few years ago.



From "Fancies Free."



From "The Girl's Home Companion."

The Children's Painting Book.

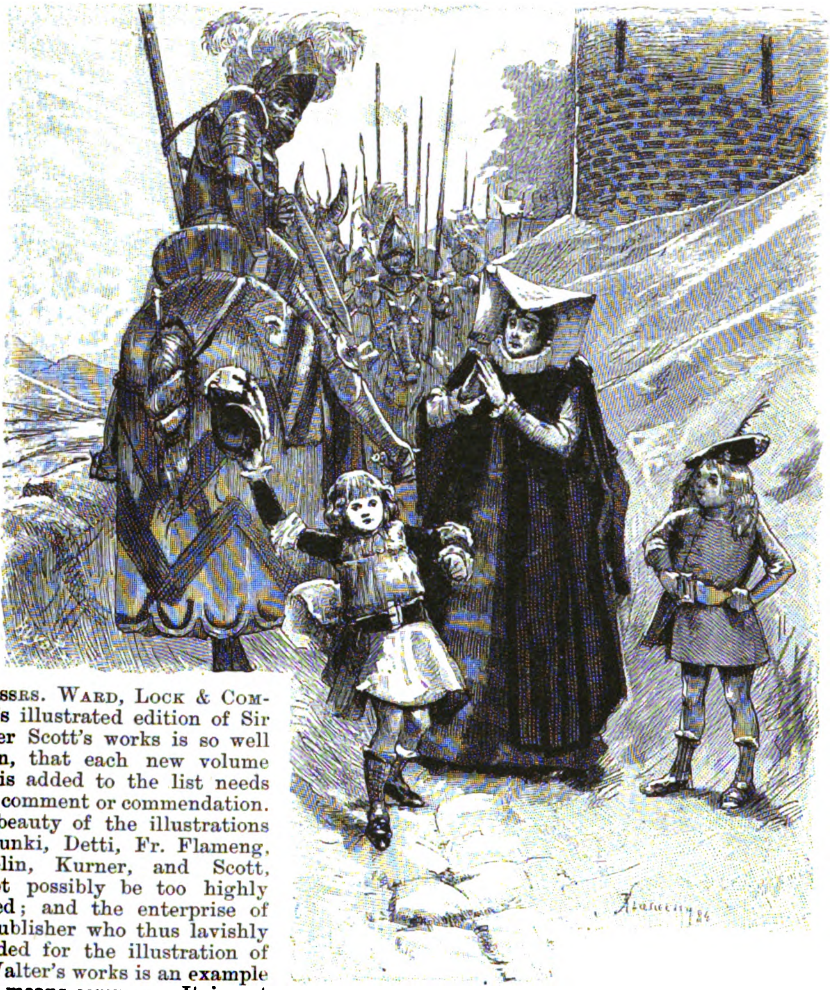
Over the Hills Painting Book. By Jessie Watkins.

These two books are so far alike that they may be conveniently noticed together, for both have the same general end in view—that of training the young artist's eye and hand, by setting before him (or her) dainty coloured scenes, with outline reproductions of the same to be coloured. The first mentioned of the two contains a number of really artistic studies, of military and nautical scenes, animal life, and rustic sketches, varied enough to suit different tastes, and to impart some notion of different styles of treatment. The second, which is a trifle more elaborate, contains sketches of child life in the country, most of which are really exquisitely dainty, and thoroughly artistic in design and colouring, with an utter absence of the crudity that used to mark such productions. It contains, moreover, some charming verses, and these are wisely reproduced faintly, so that the young painter can get an idea of lettering as well as of studies of figures and scenery.

* * *

Toilers in Art. Edited by Henry C. Ewart. (Isbister & Co.)—This charming volume contains memoirs of some eighteen men who have fairly earned the title of toilers in art—who, by indomitable perseverance and ceaseless toil won their way step by step to the reward, the power of mastering those trifles which, as one of the greatest artists the world ever knew declared, make perfection. The lives are written by various hands, and one (that of Mr. Frederic Shields) is an autobiography. The subjects include men of all nations, too. Mr. Tenniel, the great cartoonist comes first, and John Flaxman brings up the rear, while between the two are Bewick, Lhermitte, Oskar Pletsch, Alexis Harlamoff, and so on. Each life is illustrated, sometimes with portrait and scenes from the artist's career, sometimes with charming reproductions of his works.

THE ILLUSTRATED EDITION OF SCOTT'S WORKS.



Messrs. Ward, Lock & Company's illustrated edition of Sir Walter Scott's works is so well known, that each new volume that is added to the list needs little comment or commendation. The beauty of the illustrations by Dunki, Detti, Fr. Flameng, Gosselin, Kurner, and Scott, cannot possibly be too highly praised; and the enterprise of the publisher who thus lavishly provided for the illustration of Sir Walter's works is an example by no means common. It is not too much to say that there is no edition of the author's books that can in any way compare with the one before us for beauty and wealth of illustration, and especially in the matter of historic accuracy. No detail was regarded as trifling; and every costume, every weapon, every scrap of furniture—even to the flagon on the table—bears traces of the pains and research expended by the artists. The production of "The Monastery" is as excellent as that of the earlier volumes of the series, in the matters of paper, print, and binding; and great care has evidently been bestowed upon its every stage. The notes are conveniently placed for reference at the end of the volume, except in the case of mere translations of Scottish or obsolete words, these being given on the pages where the words occur.

Amateur Work Illustrated. (Ward, Lock, & Co.)—This third volume of the new series of "Amateur Work Illustrated" is as good as its predecessors, and no one can give it higher praise than this. There is a "practicalness," if one may coin such a word, about all the directions that at once betrays the fact that the articles are written by specialists; while the careful editing is apparent to the most casual critic. The working drawings are thoroughly trustworthy, and the designs for the various pieces of useful and ornamental work are highly artistic. There is something for everybody, no matter what his taste may be, and while some of the work described will tax the skill of a really clever and experienced amateur workman, there is much that may be executed satisfactorily by any fairly ingenious boy who has a very few tools, and such materials as may be procured for a shilling or two.

Frank Allreddy's Fortune; or, Life on the Indus. By Franklin Fox. (Ward, Lock, & Co.)—This story of adventure deals with the life of Frank Allreddy, whose character justifies his name. His escape from shipwreck, and the other exciting and perilous scenes through which he passes, are graphically described, and at length he wins a chancery suit which brings him fortune, and the hand of a Mohammedan girl (converted to Christianity, of course) which presumably brings him happiness. Moreover, he finds his father, who was supposed to be dead; and this also, of course, is a source of unalloyed joy.

Letters of Field-Marshal von Moltke. Translated by Clara Bell and Henry W. Fischer. With illustrations. 2 vols. (Osgood & McIlvaine.)—The private correspondence of a man of such fame as Moltke necessarily possesses a peculiar interest, and the publication of it becomes an event of some importance in the literary world. We must first do the translators the justice to say that their work is admirably performed, and that their version reads with all the ease and expression of an original. The letters embrace a large portion of their writer's long life, beginning with those addressed to his mother in 1823, when he was lieutenant in the 8th Foot, and ending with the letter addressed to his last surviving brother Ludwig, only three years ago—a period of sixty-five years! The earlier time gives a picture of the diligent young officer, assiduous in study, managing not only to live on his pay, but even pay his debts, and keeping up his home ties with genuine affection. His leisure hours are given to the relaxations of drawing and music, with occasional essays in the realm of poetry. He even writes a novelette called "The Friends," and at the age of thirty-four undertakes a translation of Gibbon, which, though all but complete, does not appear ever to have been published. Moltke's reflections upon European politics, in which he was to play so distinguished a part, will of course be turned to by the reader of these volumes. In 1848, writing on German union, he says, "We were never further from it than now. They will not see Prussia at their head, and without Prussia nothing can be accomplished." Two years later he declares that Prussia has not "a single friend in all Europe. She is detested by the democrats because she is the stronghold of order, while in the eyes of Petersburg and Vienna she is revolutionary. She is unpopular in all the family of States, who look upon her as a parvenu, and the small principalities despise her for having fallen from the ranks of the old nobility." In 1851 he writes with prophetic foresight, "Prussia will yet stand at the head of Germany. Still it must be confessed that a more pitiable nation than the Germans does not exist on earth." The last letter belongs to the brief reign of the Emperor Frederick. "I have no wish to live through the next few years; a bad time is coming for Germany, and I cannot, unfortunately, seclude myself in peace. I may yet have to swear allegiance to a fifth King of Prussia." Going on to describe Prince Henry's wedding, which had just taken place, he adds, "Then the Emperor came in, his tall, noble figure unbowed, greeting the company with a kindly smile. Only his eyes looked to me sunken, and his breathing rapid and painful. It is heartrending to see him struggling with inexhaustible patience and sweetness against his cruel fate; one foot on the throne, and the other in the grave." The letter is signed "Your feeble old brother, Hellmuth."

Peter Ibbetson. Edited and illustrated by George du Maurier. 2 vols. (Osgood & McIlvaine.)—All the world knew that Mr. du Maurier could draw; not everyone was aware that he could write, and write as he draws with infinite effect. It would be safe to conjecture that "Peter Ibbetson" is for the most part an autobiography. Mr. du Maurier's colleague and "chief" has recently recorded his own life under a very transparent disguise, and we may suppose that, following the example of his friend, Mr. du Maurier intends to tell us in these pages his own story under another name. The French parentage, the childhood and period of education spent in Paris, the bilingual mother tongue, the return to England and apprenticeship in business in London, with many other points of resemblance in the history of "Peter Ibbetson," have their counterparts in the life of the artist-author. But after so much agreement the likeness ceases. The hero grows up into a young giant, strong and comely, and ranges the world about, until he meets once more the girl-playmate of his childhood, now an English duchess. Between the two there comes into being a mysterious psychical connection which forms the leading subject of the story, and the consolation of Ibbetson's life. Nothing hinders this union of souls: not her marriage, or his sentence to death for murder, nor even her own death later on. The spiritual lovers meet and embrace in dreamland and spiritland. Ghastly assignations, interviews in astral shape, dual and even multiple personalities evolve themselves in the course of their intimacy, and they live together in former ages, and enter previous states of existence, and see Joan of Arc, and the Cæsars, and the Mammoth!

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Walker's Desk-Rack.—For a book or newspaper rack to be thoroughly serviceable it is necessary for it to be made adjustable, in order that it can be used for any thickness or size of book, newspaper, or whatever may be required for either permanent or temporary reference. The majority of the racks, however, are deficient in this particular, whereby their utility is to a large extent diminished. The adjustable desk-rack of Messrs. John Walker & Co. exactly meets this requirement. It consists of a base of polished oak or walnut, six inches in width, fitted along the side with metal niches, into which are placed skeleton partitions of nickel or copper. By a simple process these partitions can be adjusted into divisions of greater or less space for books, newspapers, or periodicals; or, in the event of the rack being used for the counting-house, for a full set of account books. The rack is ornamental in appearance and is strongly made, and may be obtained in various lengths, ranging from twelve to thirty-six inches.

Walker's Pocket Diaries.—The series of extremely neat diaries published by Messrs. John Walker & Co. has this year been augmented by a new size, a long, narrow book, with a page measuring 5¾ × 2¾ inches, suited to the requirements of business or professional men. These loop-back diaries, with their pencils in a loop or sheath at the back, have won an ever increasing amount of favour; nor is this to be wondered at, for they are without question the neatest and most handy pocket diaries that could well be desired. Whether they are bound in cloth or roan, russia or morocco, they are equally well-made and neatly finished; and the paper of which they are composed, is uniformly admirable. The testimony in their favour has been universal, and they deserve all the praise they have received.

MR. ARROWSMITH'S PUBLICATIONS.

Mr. Arrowsmith has published a number of seasonable works this year, for most of which he has gone in for ghost stories of the good old-fashioned chain-clanking, creepy, churchyard variety. First in order comes

Leslie's Fate and *Hilda; or the Ghost of Erminstein*, by Captain Andrew Haggard, D.S.O.—Leslie, the hero of the first tale, is born with the power of seeing ghostly visitants, and gets considerably annoyed by family ghosts at the castle where he lives, who go through performances for his benefit. Then Leslie's fate transports him mysteriously to a Hindu temple, where he sees a divinity bathe, and promptly kisses her. The temple is in an enchanted vale in the Scotch Highlands, and there the hero and his divinity live until she dies. He marries an English girl, and his former bride haunts them as a fearful snake, which finally kills the wife. Then Leslie dies, and his two wives haunt his coffin.

Hilda is a terribly tragic story of two girls who love the same man. The three plan a midnight excursion to a haunted gallery, where one of the girls, Hilda, betrothed to the young Hungarian officer, is literally struck down and murdered by a ghost. The other girl and the officer promise on her deathbed that they will marry, and in due time they do so.

A Frenchman in America. By Max O'Rell.—This latest of Mr. Max O'Rell's remarkable series of books shows the Anglo-Saxon race revisited by him in our American cousins. Of course Mr. O'Rell is bright, racy, readable; and his comments on all he saw on the other side of the herring-pond are delightfully sharp. The book contains about a hundred and fifty characteristic sketches by E. W. Kemble.

The White Hat, and other Stories. By Finch Mason. Illustrated by the author.—This is a charming collection of some of Mr. Finch Mason's best stories, a certain number of which will be remembered by readers of one of the illustrated weeklies in which they originally appeared. The volume takes its title from the opening story—a story of a little man who goes to a Duke's hatter, purchases a hat, the facsimile of one worn by His Grace on the strength of a supposed facial resemblance, gets laughed at by his betrothed, curses the hat, and loses his lady love. All the stories are smartly told, and the author's sketches are charming.

The Supernatural? By Lionel Weatherley, M.D., and J. N. Maskelyne.—The origin of this book seems to have been a paper read by Dr. Weatherley at Bath last year on "Hallucinations and Illusions." It is absolutely lucid, and to many readers will doubtless seem very nearly conclusive. Mr. Maskelyne has, of course, supplied the *exposé* part of the book, and tells "how it's done," as probably no living man but he could do. For, so long Mr. Maskelyne has been manufacturing ghosts of the first water that it would be odd if he believed in those not of his own creation. The wonder is that he believes in anything.

Violin and Vendetta is a terrible story of ghosts and gore by a gentleman who veils his identity under the mysterious letters T. I. S. The story is Venetian, and deals with a wonderful violin, so marvellous that it provokes someone to murder its owner with a glass dagger. Lucia, the victim's *fiancé* accomplishes a terrible vendetta, and one of the worst of the many villains in the book dies at the hands of the Inquisition.

Ghosts and Glamour, by Joseph Leech, is a collection of fine blood-curdling ghost tales, the greater part of which turn upon some local or family tradition or popular superstition. Many of them, indeed, are founded upon fact, but for all that there is a full flavour of all the elements required for a genuine ghost story of the true Christmas variety. The writer owns to a strong sympathy with ghost seers, and if any reader, at the end of the volume does not feel so strong a sympathy of the kind as to dislike the idea of going to bed in the dark, he must have uncommonly good nerves.

The Romance of a Madhouse, by A. M. Meadows, is another decidedly full-flavoured story. The writer gets into a madhouse, and finds that the woman he is dancing with is a murderess. Nevertheless he falls in love with her, and takes her into his chambers, when she escapes. Little by little it is proved that she is innocent and sane, while the truth of the murder is revealed by a phonograph.

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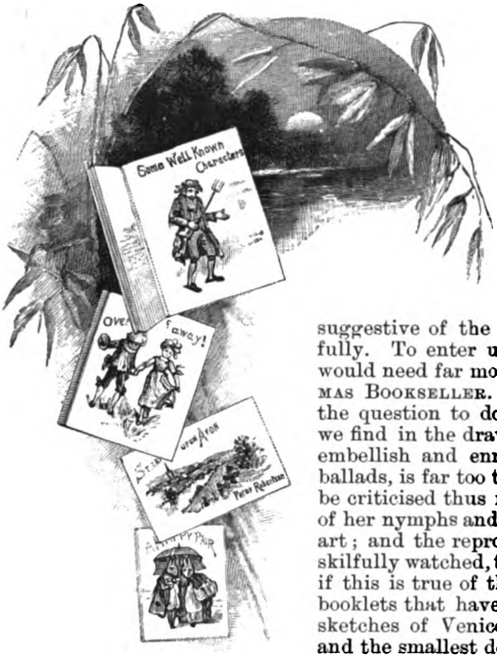
Pictures of Travel. By Heinrich Heine. Translated from the German by Charles G. Leland. 2 Vols. (W. Heinemann.)—Mr. Leland's translation dates as far back as 1855, long enough ago for Heine himself to have heard of it and expressed his gratification at the event. "A piece of good news that I forgot to communicate to you the other day," he writes to his publisher, Mr. Calmann-Levy, about six months before his death. "An English translation of the *Reisebilder* which has appeared in New York has met with an enormous success." It was this famous work which, thirty years before, had raised its author to a pinnacle of fame in the world of letters. With the completion of the *Reisebilder* appeared almost simultaneously the *Buch der Lieder*, and then Heine's conquest was complete. In these pages are concentrated all that constitutes Heine's genius, his pathos and his humour, his wit and his drollery. His poetic spirit finds outlet in uncongenial circumstances. Thus the beautiful Loreley song,

> "Ich weiss nicht was soll es bedeuten," &c.

was written in the North Sea, and the favourite "The Sea hath its Pearls" was composed amid those same grey and stormy waters. In his rhymed examples Mr. Leland is perhaps scarcely as happy as the versions of Sir T. Martin and Longfellow. Heine's Pindaric movement is caught by him better, *e.g.* in the Apostrophe to the Town Cellar of Bremen, where (truth to say) Heine drinks too well, and is helped up the stairway by the "brave Town Cellar Master."

> "Sees't thou upon the roofs of the houses sitting
> Lovely tipsy angels sweetly singing!
> The radiant sun, too, yonder in Heaven,
> Is only a crimson wine-coloured proboscis,
> The nose of the World-Soul,
> And round the red nose of the World-Soul
> Circles the whole of the tipsyfied world."



MESSRS. HILDESHEIMER & FAULKNER'S BOOKS AND BOOKLETS.—So many years have passed since Messrs. Hildesheimer & Faulkner first acquired a reputation for dainty and artistic books and booklets, and so regular have been the annual issues of their productions, that it is no easy matter to find anything new to say of the latest batch of novelties. All the vocabulary of praise has been exhausted already upon these exquisite productions, and critic after critic—rather admirer after admirer, for who can criticise such delicate work?—has rung the changes upon all the adjectives that the English language possesses, suggestive of the qualities these books and booklets show so fully. To enter upon a description of each, or even of any, would need far more space than we can give even in a CHRISTMAS BOOKSELLER. Yet in general terms it is utterly out of the question to do them justice. Such work, for instance, as we find in the drawings wherewith Miss Alice Havers loved to embellish and enrich the beautifully-printed love-songs and ballads, is far too thoroughly graceful and too truly artistic to be criticised thus rudely. The exquisite charm, and abandon of her nymphs and shepherdesses, are worthy of any gallery of art; and the reproduction of them has been so earnestly and skilfully watched, that they have scarcely suffered at all. And if this is true of the larger books it is equally true of the tiny booklets that have of late years become so fashionable. The sketches of Venice and London, are delightfully soft in tone, and the smallest details, even to the silken cords that hold the sheets together, have evidently been the objects of the utmost care and solicitude.

THE BRITISH ALMANAC AND COMPANION.—Issued by the Stationers' Company, this is one of those volumes that annually make their appearance with the regularity of Christmas itself. Their advent is marked by no flourish of trumpets, yet their absence would be noted by many who gladly use them, and they themselves are their best monument. The Almanac and Companion for 1892 are, like their predecessors (and most furnished apartments!) replete with every convenience. The volume contains the usual calendar, Sunday lessons, fairs, notices, and a mass of astronomical facts and phenomena, together with a vast variety of information connected with public affairs, Acts of Parliament, with abstracts of the more important measures, and so forth. In the "Companion" are the usual records for the year, compiled by specialists of the first water. Mr. R. Langton Cole deals with the architecture of the year; Mr. Cosmo Monkhouse has chronicled the artistic events of the twelvemonths; Mr. Joseph Knight and Mr. J. S. Shedlock deal with the drama and music respectively; Mr. Maunder is the scientific historian, and each department is thus separately and specially treated. The whole volume seems to have been carefully and accurately compiled, and forms a most useful companion for the business man.

Old Moore's Almanac, still as ever "a loyal almanac for the year of human redemption" for the time being, is a relic of the past, even of the days when the Stationers' Company had a monopoly of almanac publishing. To a certain extent the stitched sheets bear the same appearance as in the days when Francis Moore, Physician, was something more than nominal editor, but his old prediction department has gone by the board. The almanac now is full of other, and perhaps more useful, matter, the usual calendars and official information, while the lists of Government officials and similar tables are very full and accurate.

Royal Youths. A book of Princehoods. By Ascott R. Hope. (T. Fisher Unwin.)—The early days of princes have always a fascination for young people, and Mr. Hope, who is distinguished as a successful caterer for readers of that age, knew what he was about in selecting the present subject for a new book. We have here eight chapters in all, beginning with Conradin, the last hope of the Hohenstaufens, and ending with the ill-fated son of Louis XVI., who expired in misery, filth, and want in his eleventh year. The son of Philip II. by his first marriage, the unfortunate Don Carlos, claims attention from the romance attending his too brief career and the mystery which shrouds his death. The early days of Louis XIII. under the regency of Marie de Medicis bring before us a figure which thoroughly lends itself to effective narrative in Mr. Hope's hands. Of Queen Anne's son, the Duke of Gloucester—let us parenthetically remind ourselves that good Queen Anne had *seventeen* children, little as we remember the fact!—his footman and most devoted of flunkeys, Jenkin Lewis by name, has left on record a history of that life of eleven years, so that in this case we have a biography ready to the author's hand. The remaining "princehoods" of the book describe the youthful days of Frederick the Great, Ivan VI. (the victim of the Empress Catherine), the Orleans Princes (Louis Philippe and brothers), and Louis the Seventeenth. A number of illustrations accompany the text, and the volume is got up in the most approved manner as a Christmas *cadeau*.

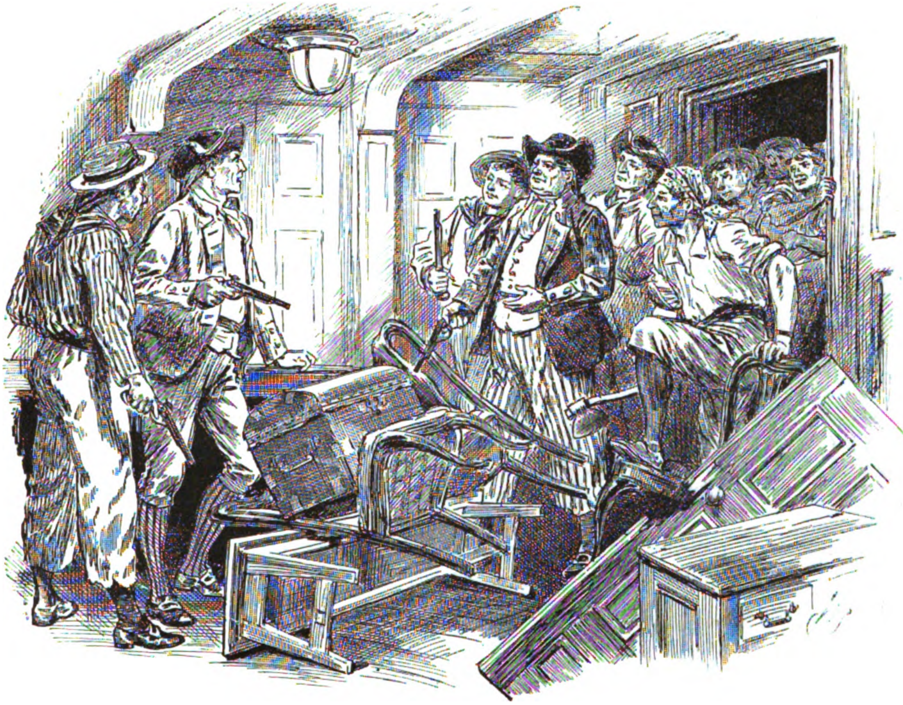
A New Saint's Tragedy. By Thomas A. Pinkerton. Two vols. (Swan Sonnenschein & Co.)—The author's reputation as a writer of original and amusing stories is well sustained by his latest production. To say that the climax of the novel stands out boldly as a violation of orthodox dramatic fitness is to indicate one of the prominent features of originality. There was a time when a happy ending was regarded as a *sine quâ non* for securing the success of a novel. But now readers must not hope too fondly for the ultimate happiness of hero or heroine, even in a thoroughly choice and entertaining story. The "tragedy" which ends the career of the author's heroine, or "saint," though disappointing, cannot be taken as inconsistent with her previous history, on the principle that good people are not always rewarded according to their deserts. Agatha Penolver's strict sense of honour, deeply affectionate and unsuspecting disposition, in striking contrast to the characteristics of the people about her, helped to close her eyes to the faults, questionable designs, and dishonourable motives of relations and others. This "saint" would have been better fitted to grapple with circumstances for a pinch of worldly wisdom. On arriving at the age of twenty-five she was to inherit a large fortune, on condition that she married her cousin Rudolph. Within a short time of her birthday she is overwhelmed by the tidings that Rudolph is guilty of glaring moral delinquency, and thereupon renounces both her lover and the fortune which would soon have been hers. Her decision brings dire confusion into the ranks of impecunious relatives, who were hoping to benefit considerably by Agatha's attainment of wealth. But the fatal event in Agatha's life had yet to come. Her strong-minded and beloved sister, Muriel, elopes with a married man. The blow prostrates Agatha with brain fever, and finally kills her. Her unusually keen sense of family honour, and her intense love for her sister, were too deeply wounded, and hence the "tragedy." In the background of the story are numerous characters, sketched, for the most part, in an incisive and masterly fashion; whilst plenty of wit and humour are extracted from such eccentric individuals as Jerry Galindo and "old Joley."

The Oxford Shakspeare.—The complete works of Shakspeare in one volume of extremely portable dimensions, and printed in type large enough to be read with comfort, is a desideratum which will be appreciated by those whom circumstances oblige to reduce their impedimenta to the smallest weight and compass. Travellers who have had to deny themselves the companionship of their favourite author, because of the bulky form in which his works are produced, or of the minute type in which pocket editions are printed, may have sighed for the invention of some method whereby a large page, good type and small bulk could be made possible. These are precisely the advantages offered by the Oxford Shakspeare, just published by Mr. Henry Frowde of the Oxford University Press. It is a crown 8vo volume of 1,264 pages, printed in emerald type on the famous Oxford India paper. It measures but seven-eighths of an inch in thickness, and weighs, when bound, just 18¾ ounces. Thanks to the remarkable qualities of the paper, its gossamer texture is unnoticed by the reader, to whom the type is as clear as though the book were printed on cardboard. The Oxford India paper is unequalled in the matter of opaqueness, and it is a continued marvel how its smooth silken tissue remains so impervious to all but the faintest suggestion of shadow from the type printed on its under surface. Here is a book which fulfils all the requirements of the traveller, the invalid reader, or others to whom the qualities we have enumerated are of paramount importance. It is a beautifully neat production, and whether in cloth, or arrayed in more costly leather binding, its exterior appearance is in keeping with the rest. We should have stated that the text is edited by Mr. W. J. Craig, and is supplemented by a glossary. Another edition is issued printed on ordinary thin paper at a considerably cheaper price. This, whilst portable enough for most purposes, is not to be compared in that respect with the edition on India paper.

The Salon of 1891.—This beautiful quarto reaches us from Messrs. Boussod & Valadon, containing pictures from the two Paris exhibitions of the year, the Champs Elysées, and the Champ de Mars. It is not only beautiful but marvellous; in this way, that by means of the process which (we believe) is specially called Goupilgravure, the effect of a fine engraving is produced, combined, of course, with the facsimile of photography: so that results are obtainable in a comparatively short space of time, and the pictures of the year reproduced in this manner within a month or so of the closing of the galleries. Had the work had to depend upon the engraver's art, it would have taken as many years to effect, not to speak of the immensely increased cost of production. The annual assemblage of paintings at the Salon is truly a vast one, and the hurried visitor can often obtain little more than a passing remembrance. Nor, as far as the photogravures go, is it attempted to give more than a selection of the more notable productions. Still, in the hundred beautiful plates and etchings with which the volume is adorned it will be admitted that the selection is an ample one. Of pictures that immediately struck the eye may be mentioned Breton's "Pardon of Kergoat," and Laurens' "Voûte d'Acier," *i.e.* the famous "arch" of crossed swords through which Louis XVI. passed into the Hôtel de Ville on July 17, 1789. The Franco-German War still furnishes a number of military scenes by Bloch, Brouillet, Boutigny, and Grollerson. The Alsatian Henner is represented by his "Weeping"—very characteristic of his style, and Munkacsy, the Hungarian, by "The Favourite Tune." Chartran's portrait of Mdlle. Brandes of the Vaudeville is given; but the finest portrait of the year, Delaunay's Archbishop of Sens, is unaccountably omitted. Mr. Glazebrook's striking picture, "The Emperor," was the most notable English painting exhibited, and it figures again in this volume. The Champ de Mars collection will be remembered for Carolus Duran's portrait of M. Billotte, and Carrière's portrait of Daudet. Perret's "Shepherd" and Delame's "Roll Call" were also noticeable pictures; and the strange "Magdalen" of the Finland Realist, Edelfelt, with which may be compared the same subject treated by Beraud of the same school.

MESSRS. OLIPHANT, ANDERSON, & FERRIER'S PUBLICATIONS.

Richard Tregellas. By D. L. Johnstone.—This old-time story is written with no little skill, preserving with great accuracy the language and manners of the period in which the events are supposed to have occurred. The hero's adventures are laid in the West Indies during the year of grace, 1781. The scenery in which they happen is described with singular vividness, and evidently the greatest care has been taken with the local colouring. There is plenty of exciting incident in the course of the story—battles at sea, a mutiny, and narrow escapes from death in all its most varied and startling forms. There is a pleasant undercurrent of love running through it, and the book ends, as it should do, with the marriage of the hero and heroine. The admirable illustrations by Mr. Boucher—one of which we reproduce—are those which appeared with the story when it came out as a serial in a popular magazine.



FROM "RICHARD TREGELLAS."

The Sandcliff Mystery. By Scott Graham.—This new and cheaper edition needs no words of welcome. The story is well constructed, and the effects are managed with consummate skill. It is indeed an eloquent study of a life in which early marrying has involved early marring, and there is a good deal of truth and pathos in its pages. The descriptions of middle and upper class life are excellent, and the realism is of the best and healthiest kind. Its moral is, in fact, most sound, though never intrusive.

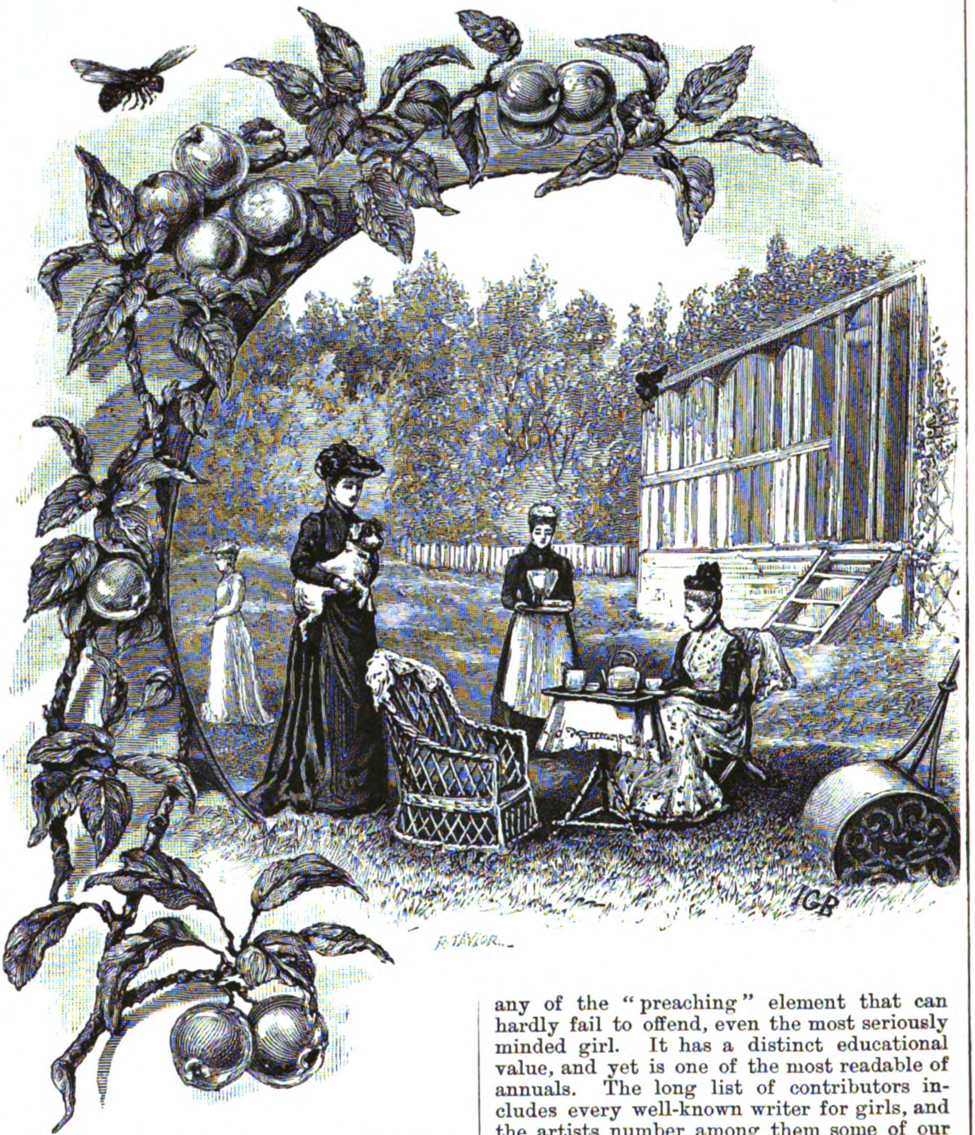
Comrades True. By Ellinor Davenport Adams.—This story, by the author of "Colonel Russell's Baby," is one that will rivet the interest of the young people for whom it is intended. Its authoress has just the knowledge so often lacked by writers for the young—that of writing for her especial favourites exactly what they want. One of her own characters says "I *hate* children's books," and adds, pithily enough, "How should *you* know, all you grown-ups, which are the books which we like best?" There is a whole world of matter in the remark which would be valuable if the writers of at least half the books for the young would ponder it. But *Comrades True* will delight both boys and girls.

Molly, by A. C. Hertford, is a pleasant little love tale, in which the course of true love runs even more perversely crooked than is usual even in novels. But, in spite of all the troubles, Molly's great love, and the equally great love of the noble Ralph, are thoroughly satisfied at last, and the tale ends prettily. Molly is a delightful girl, and though the lessons of the story are rather too serious the story itself is very readable.

Milestones. And other stories. By Jessie M. E. Saxby.—This is a very pleasant collection of short stories, thirteen in number, for children. The stories are told in that cheery way that the authoress knows so well, and the illustrations are for the most part admirable, the lessons always unexceptionable.

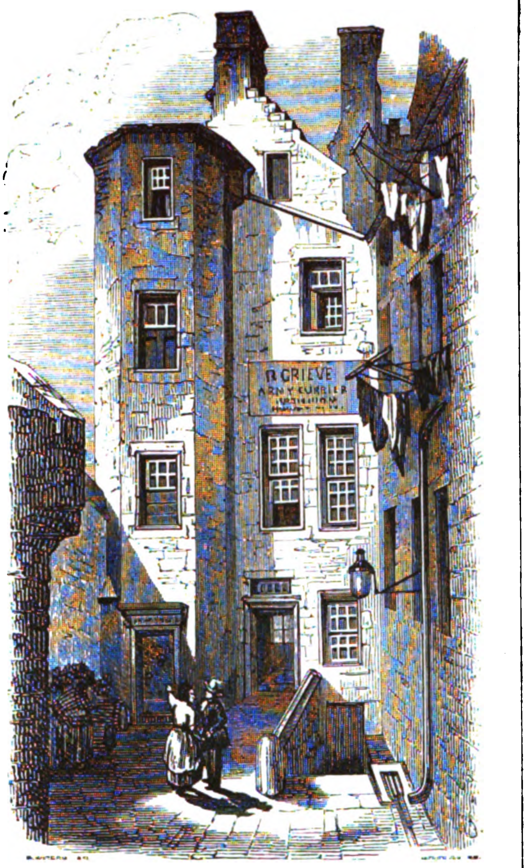
Who shall Serve? A story for the times by Annie S. Swan.—A book with this author's name upon the title page is sure to possess the qualifications of readibility and good construction. The plot of *Who shall Serve?* is too elaborate for rehearsal in a notice so brief as that which we must limit ourselves to, but it deals chiefly with the tide of socialism that is just now causing so much anxiety, and the spirit among the working classes that leads to the frequent strikes. These questions are very seriously discussed with a good deal of wisdom, but apart from them the tale is an exceedingly well-written one, and it ends as the reader would wish with the marriage of its noble hero with the woman he loves.

THE GIRL'S OWN ANNUAL.



THE handsome volume known as *The Girl's Own Annual* is always one of the most attractive of the Christmas publications of the Religious Tract Society, and this year's issue will fully sustain the reputation gained by its predecessors. Apart from the literary and artistic excellence of the volume its pages are always marked by a singularly high moral tone. It may amuse and instruct, but it has a higher purpose ever in view—that of making its readers better women, and of helping them to live up to its own high moral standard. Yet this is never obtruded on the reader, and neither in the articles nor the stories is there any of the "preaching" element that can hardly fail to offend, even the most seriously minded girl. It has a distinct educational value, and yet is one of the most readable of annuals. The long list of contributors includes every well-known writer for girls, and the artists number among them some of our best illustrators. The serial fiction is from the pens of such writers as Rose Carey, Evelyn Everett Green, and Lady Margaret Majendie, and in addition there is an immense variety of excellent short stories. The articles on all conceivable subjects are of almost higher value than the stories, and a girl must indeed be singular if she cannot find many of these suited to her own particular tastes. Of the illustrations, it would be difficult to speak too highly, whether one looks at such important ones as the coloured frontispiece by Kate Greenaway, or at such trifles as initial letters and head-pieces.

MEMORIALS OF EDINBURGH IN THE OLDEN TIME.*



We must congratulate both author and publisher on the re-issue of this important work. It is seldom indeed that after so long a period an author is permitted to correct the proofs of a second edition. But Sir Daniel Wilson enjoys this good fortune; still living, we are glad to learn, in hale and vigorous health, and with his interest in his native city as strong and as active as ever. His "Memorials" have now for nearly half a century past occupied the foremost position as the book of reference on the history and topography of ancient Edinburgh. In its new edition the value of the work is considerably increased. "Few pages," says its author, "remain without some emendation: considerable portions, embodying the results of later research, have been entirely re-written; and additions of some interest have been made to the illustrations." In the long interval that has elapsed since Sir Daniel began "with pen and pencil" to pourtray the Scottish capital, the changes that have passed over the city have removed many of its remaining historical and architectural features. The palace of Mary of Guise, Robert Gourlay's mansion, the collegiate church of St. Mary of Gueldres, and St. Margaret's Well with its healing spring, have all vanished. The West Bow, St. Ninian's Row, and many an old wynd and close of picturesque aspect have travelled the same road, and it is only in such pictures of the past as those preserved in the "Memorials" that we can see what was the Edinburgh of Sir Walter Scott. In this way the reader is able to imagine the old "lands" of the Lawn Market, the High Street, and the Netherbow, with their lofty timbered fronts and gabled roofs so characteristic of the place. He may view John Knox's house as it was in 1843, and the Netherbow Port as it stood more than a hundred years since; and note the ancient buildings on Castle Hill that have disappeared since the author began his work, the house of Bishop Bothwell of ballad fame, and many more. The series of beautiful engravings that adorn the work are for the most part from drawings taken at the time by the author himself. To these have been added in the present edition several fresh illustrations, which contribute largely to the enhanced value and attractiveness of the volumes.

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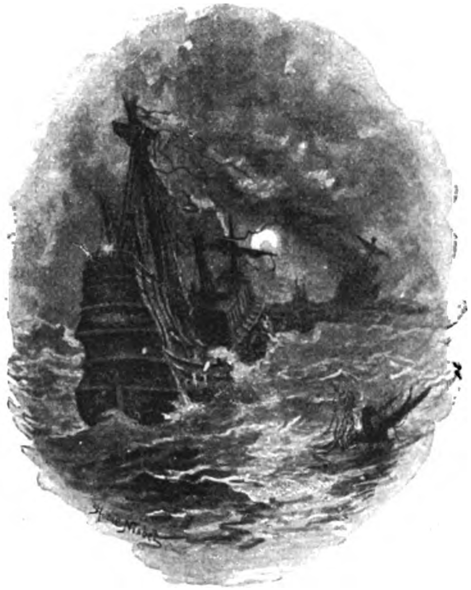
* *Memorials of Edinburgh in the Olden Time.* By Sir Daniel Wilson, LL.D. Second Edition. (A. & C. Black.)

On Surrey Hills. By a Son of the Marshes. (W. Blackwood & Sons.)—It is somewhat remarkable that we should have so few naturalist authors. Mr. Morris it is true, is still at Nurnburnholme Priory, and Mr. W. W. Fowler discourses pleasantly about his friends the birds; but if we require an observer of nature at all resembling Mr. Jefferies, we can but recall two names, Mr. John Watson of North British fame, and the author of this volume. This concealed writer, who contents himself with the humble designation on his title-page, comes as near filling the place of the author of "Nature near London" as any one we could mention. It will be observed, also, that in his new volume the *habitats*—so to speak—of the two naturalists is the same. Curious and fortunate it is that even now there should be so much wild life still existing in the neighbourhood of smoky, devouring London. The whining hedgehog may be now and then encountered upon secluded roads, the otter occasionally discovered hunting in pairs along the banks of the Wey and the Mole, and the badger observed among the woods about Holmbury and Leith Hill, "a strange combination of the bear and the pig in his movements." The author puts in a plea on behalf of this last-named quadruped, and it is to be hoped that the farmer who spares the fox may also be induced to yield protection to the badger. The rivers of Surrey, though the county is rather remarkable for its waterless character, afford subject for the fisherman's craft, and for stories of successful angling expeditions and the ways and habits of fresh-water fishes. Insect life and notes of the *reptilia* of the district come also within the observant ken of the "Son of the Marshes," and his chapter on "A Forest Fire" gives a graphic account of the destructive scene he witnessed one dry, sultry, summer night, when the pines were set ablaze all round, and the creatures of all kinds that they harboured rushed bewildered into the open for safety, quite after the style of the oft-described prairie fire.

The "Jolly Roger." By Hume Nisbet. (Digby, Long & Co.)—This is a story of sea heroes and pirates which recounts the history of one Humphrey Bolin and his son who fell among pirates and sailed to the Island of Laverna. There he witnessed sundry strange and mysterious phenomena, while under the influence of a certain evil witch, which suggest a theory that may possibly account to some extent for what our ancestors termed witchcraft. One of the persons in the story is Shakspere himself, of whom a portrait is given, which the author declares his own research proves to be correct in spite of Mr. Donnelly. The "Jolly Roger"—the pirate flag—floats from the mast of the ship whereon the hero serves, and the story is from beginning to end a fearful revel of witchcraft, piracy, bloodshed and horror.



From The "Jolly Roger."

The Roll Call; and Other Stories. By Lucy Henry. (Digby, Long & Co.)—This is a volume of some fifteen short stories, the first and principal one of which gives the title to the whole. They are all exceedingly slight in construction, but there is a prettiness about the telling that makes them very pleasant reading—notably about the flower story which opens the book. "The Angel and the Child" is another very pretty little tale, and in some of the others there is a good deal of simple pathos.

Clouds of Black and Gold. By E. de Sérant. (Digby, Long & Co.)—It is a trite saying, perhaps, that "the very meanest things are made supreme," and the truth it contains is one that has formed the theme of poets of all ages, from Homer—who, amidst all the grandeur and glory of his epics had ever a care for detail—down to the poets of our own time. It is this truth that the story before us illustrates in a decidedly original way, for the heroine introduces herself as the recipient of a present from her lover, not of a diamond necklace, but a cake of Pears' Soap. Yet this same cake is the *deus ex machinâ* of the story, and leads to the ultimate happiness of the heroine—though not of the giver of the soap.

Leslie. By the author of "A Modern Milkmaid." (Digby, Long & Co.)—This new story is as powerful as the author's earlier work would lead one to expect from the same pen. There is a certain strength in the opening chapter—in the heroine's search after the God in whom she has ceased to believe—that compels attention; and even more is this apparent at the death scene, when the mother is laid low by the letter of her husband saying that he is living with another woman, and has for ever renounced his allegiance. And in the last supreme scene of the heroine's life, there is the same dramatic force and terseness that compelled the reader of the earlier work to read on to the end. The story is not one to be taken up lightly and thrown down unread.

The Heiress of Beechfield. By E. M. Baldwin. Two vols. (Digby & Long.)—This two-volume novel has for its heroine a decidedly original girl, with ten thousand a year, who is in love with her briefless-barrister cousin, and yet does not know it. For one reason or another—generally her money—she is run after by a crowd of objectionable lovers, and finally falls head over ears in love with a married man. Luckily she discovers the fact of his marriage in time, and becomes the means of reconciling him to his wife. For five years the lady remains a blighted being, and then decides to marry her cousin, resolving with him to spend a thousand a year only, and put the other nine to nobler uses than the mere everyday requirements of life—restoring churches, building almshouses, and so on, seemingly—and all with the entire approval of the barrister!

* * *

Ireland and St. Patrick. By W. B. Morris, of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri. (Burns & Oates.)—Father Morris's devotion to St. Patrick has already shewed itself in his Life of the Saint; and equipped with the information which he has thus acquired, he now in the present work extends his view of the subject to relations and influences reaching down to our own time. The connection, in short, between Ireland and her national Saint, is shewn to be a matter not of temporary duration only and limited to the earthly life of her patron, but to be continuous; the protection and advocacy of St. Patrick being claimed as a constant living factor in the condition, temporal and spiritual, of the Irish people throughout the middle ages and later times down to the present moment. The author first of all dwells on the relations of St. Patrick to St. Martin by way of illustrating a career, the greater part of which is and always will be unknown to us. The forged Bull of Adrian IV. is then discussed, and the handing over of Ireland to Henry II. which it purported to effect, examined and refuted. The continued championship of St. Patrick on behalf of Catholic Erin is then taken in hand, with another chapter on the "Saints and the World" generally. The *Envoi* of the book is prospective, and glances into the future, which, according to the author, must in the case of Ireland, closely depend upon the Irish priesthood.

MESSRS. NISBET & .CO 'S PUBLICATIONS.

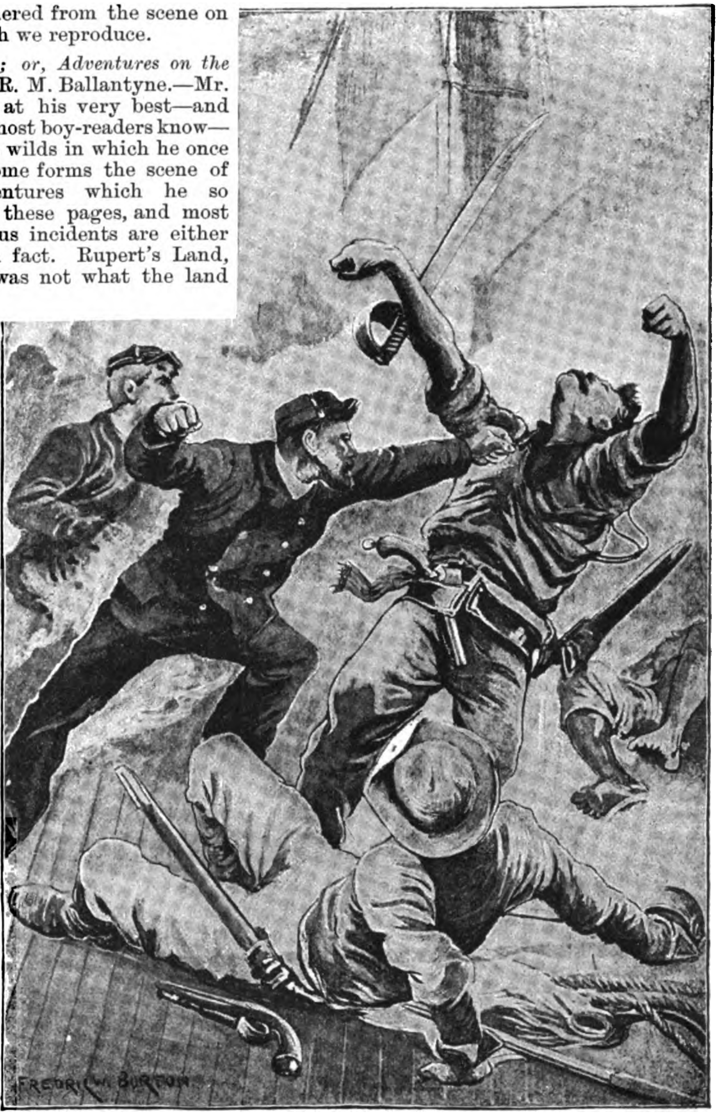
MESSRS. NISBET & CO. have as usual issued a number of books for young readers, which are admirably bound and illustrated, as a proof of the latter we reproduce one picture. The tales are by writers of the first rank, and for the most part those who have already established themselves as favourites with Messrs. Nisbet & Co.'s patrons. The names of R. M. Ballantyne, Emma Marshall, Ruth Lamb and Agnes Giberne are guarantees of good literary work and high moral tone—indeed, the tone of all the books is altogether admirable.

Aboveboard, by William Charles Metcalfe, is a rattling sea story for boys, the very cover of which is enough to raise its possessor's hopes of stirring adventures. And these hopes are destined to fulfilment before the hero of the tale has done more than introduce himself and his fellow apprentice on the good ship *Ocean Spray*. The fight with a shark and the rescue from the burning ship serve but to whet the appetite, and the reader is hurried along without a second's pause from one peril to another, until at length the two lads settle down in peace. The illustrations are excellent, as may be gathered from the scene on the pirate's deck, which we reproduce.

The Buffalo Runners; or, Adventures on the Red River Plains. By R. M. Ballantyne.—Mr. Ballantyne is always at his very best—and how good that best is most boy-readers know—when dealing with the wilds in which he once sojourned. His old home forms the scene of the marvellous adventures which he so graphically depicts in these pages, and most of these same marvellous incidents are either facts or founded upon fact. Rupert's Land, at the time described, was not what the land around the large and populous city of Winnipeg is now, and these vivid narratives serve wonderfully to emphasize the changes that have occurred since that city was built, though, by-the-bye, the country is only within the fringe of civilisation now, according to our notions.

Those Three; or, Little Wings. By Emma Marshall.—The name of Emma Marshall is so familiar to readers of Messrs. Nisbet & Co.'s books that the mere mention that the authoress has written another of her charming tales is almost sufficient. Taking as her motto one of good old George Herbert's bits of practical counsel, Mrs. Marshall makes this delightful story for girls teach the value of doing kindnesses, to the doer as well as to the receiver. The characters and failings of "Those Three" are drawn with the writer's well-known skill, and the various incidents of the tale are worked up in the happiest way.

My Lady Bountiful. By Emma Marshall.—This is a pleasant story, well constructed as all Mrs. Marshall's stories are, written chiefly for elder girls, who will be delighted at least with its heroine. Brenda Percival is one of the writer's most charming girls, and the triumph of the love which makes Sydney Latimer risk his own happiness to avoid endangering his brother's, is exquisitely described.



From "Aboveboard."

Born in the Purple is another of Mrs. Emma Marshall's tales, the scene of which is laid in a country town in England, apparently during the early years of the present century, though no exact date is given. The contrast between the lady of Midstowe, who was born in the purple, with the daughters of the banker, who were born in the homespun, is most effectively and consistently worked out, and the moral of the story, that "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet" is never forgotten, though never obtruded too ostentatiously upon the notice of the reader.

The Dalrymples. By Agnes Giberne.—This new story is quite up to the best level of the writer's works, and that, as readers of her former books know, is no small thing to say. The life in the village wherein most of the story passes is just the kind of scene that she describes with peculiar grace, and the principal characters are delightfully drawn. Hermione, the heroine, changes so gradually that the reader hardly blames her lover for doubting the change for four whole years, and Harvey Dalrymple is a noble fellow in spite of his failings.

Work, Wait, Win. By Ruth Lamb.—This is another story by a well-tried and popular writer, which, like her other tales, is interesting from the first chapter to the last, while its every page is pervaded by a thoroughly healthy moral tone. Its hero is a lad whose father ruins himself by speculation, with the result that the family property passes into the hands of the old lawyer. With one of the pretty daughters of the latter the hero falls in love, and now that he is poor, his attentions are discouraged. But the lad works, and waits, and finally wins. The story is delightfully told, and the eccentric old Dorothy is a charmingly whimsical creation.

The Coxswain's Bride, and other tales. By R. M. Ballantyne.—Mr. Ballantyne's fertile brain never seems to weary of producing new adventure stories, and his readers may at least be grateful for this. Moreover, each new tale is thoroughly fresh in conception and execution. The present volume contains a collection of his stories, three in number, all of which are full of exciting incident and hair-breadth escape. The first is, as its title suggests, a tale of the sea; the second is a quaint but seasonable tale of "Jack Frost;" and the third is a story of a double rescue.

Parson's Green. By G. Norway.—This is a small but pleasantly written story for girls, with a good deal of stern teaching as to the consequences of sin scattered through its pages, and leading to a terrible tragedy which befals one who has given way to temptation at Parson's Green.

The Church and her Doctrine, is the somewhat comprehensive title of a volume of papers on church doctrine by various preachers, including the Bishop of Sydney, Prebendary Wace, Canon Girdlestone, Canon Hoare and others belonging to that school of thought. The general drift may be gathered from the quotation from the will of the saintly Ken which forms the motto—"The Church of England as it stands distinguished from all Papal and Puritan innovations, and as it adheres to the doctrine of the Cross." It is only fair to the reader to add, however, that the teaching in some of the sermons is hardly that of the good bishop quoted.

MESSRS. NIMMO, HAY & MITCHELL'S PUBLICATIONS.

Our Fellows at St. Mark's. By Walter C. Rhoades.—Mr. Rhoades has succeeded in writing an exceedingly pleasant school story for boys without running in the slightest degree foul of "Tom Brown." The characters of the fellows at St. Mark's are very cleverly brought out. Cornish, the "cad" of the school, is a delightful foil to Grayson, the captain, and when the former gets a sound thrashing from the hands of the young Christeys there is a very pleasant feeling of relief in the reader's mind. The night in the cave is capitally described, and the whole book is thoroughly readable.

Cecil: the boy who stood between. By Maude M. Butler.—Cecil—young Sir Cecil—is a little boy whose grandfather on his deathbed has told him that a certain injustice has been perpetrated that must be put right, and Cecil promises to put it right. Just then the old man dies, and poor little Cecil does not know what he has promised. Then it turns out that Cecil's uncle had offended the old grandfather, and so Cecil was made heir and became "the boy who stood between." How the difficulty is overcome by the little hero himself is the author's secret—delightfully revealed in the course of the tale.

Bertie Linton; or, Lost in Japan. By Percy Ainslie.—A pleasant little story of a small English boy who is stolen by a Japanese acrobat in revenge for an injury caused to the acrobat's son while performing by a horrified scream from Bertie's mother. After a good deal of trouble, Bertie is accidentally found by an English stranger and happily restored to his parents.

All for himself. By Harriett D. Boultwood.—This is a brightly written little tale for boys with a capital moral. The evil habits of Stephen Young the greedy boy, very nearly lead to his being ruined body and soul, but luckily he is stopped in time. Arthur is a noble specimen of English boyhood.

Birthday Chimes. By W. T. D.—This new birthday book contains selections from the poems and tales of Sir Walter Scott, one prose and one poetical quotation for each day in the year, with the usual blank spaces opposite for autographs. The little book is nicely got up, and a portrait of Scott forms the frontispiece.

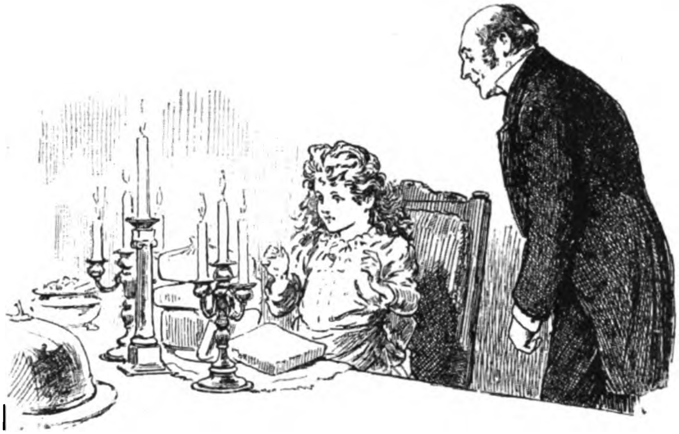
* * *

Mother, Home, and Heaven. By George Edward Jelf, M.A. (Innes & Co.)—The general drift of Canon Jelf's collection of short devotional essays may be gathered from the title, and still more from the motto from Jeremy Taylor's works—"Born of a poor mother . . . far from Home . . . the King of Heaven," which brings in connectedly, "the three most beautiful words in the English language." His object in writing them is to raise up a better spirit among the members of the family from the Christian point of view, and there is much that is well calculated to touch the hearts of those who have perhaps been neglectful of their domestic duties. It is an odd thing that Mrs. Beecher-Stowe's volume under identically the same title, which is very popular in America, never came under Canon Jelf's notice.

MESSRS. CASSELL AND CO.'S PUBLICATIONS.

Queen Summer; or, The Tourney of the Lily and the Rose. By Walter Crane.—This is one of those utterly delightful books by Mr. Crane that baffle ordinary criticism or even description. Whether he has to picture the hours "like knights and ladies fair bedight, in silk attire both red and white," or the squabble between the lily and the rose, he is always quaint, graceful, artistic. The scornful defiance of the respective champions leads to the preparation of the lists "with broidered hangings gay," and to the seating of the dainty queen Summer as judge of the tourney. The two knights in full career are specimens of Mr. Crane's peculiar genius at its best, and so the fight is pictured, until at last the queen rises, and stepping airily into the ring gives her judgment, which of course pleases everybody.

Great-grandmamma and *Elsie,* by Georgia M. Synge, are two separate and distinct tales for children, delightfully told. "Great-grandmamma" tells of a certain little Lady Betty and her great-grandmamma, whose original is the portrait of Mrs. Henry Boyce, by Sir Thomas Lawrence. "Elsie" is an equally charming tale of a little boy and girl, but the ending is very sad. Both stories are delightfully illustrated by Gordon Browne, as may be gathered from the specimen which we reproduce from "Great-grandmamma."



From "Great-grandmamma."

A Sweet Girl Graduate. By L. T. Meade. —This is a delighful story for girls, quite in the best style of this deservedly popular authoress. It deals with the adventures of Priscilla Penywern Peel, the sweet girl graduate at St. Benet's College in the old university town of Kingsdene. How far it is an accurate picture of life under such circumstances it is hard to say, but certainly a good deal of it is a study from life, and the girls who figure in its pages are faithful reproductions, faults and all, of the girls one meets. Both Priscilla and her friend Maggie Oliphant, are delicious creations, and the poor prudish Prissie, who is laughed at by all the college girls at first, wins her way to the position of the most popular girl at St. Benet's.

The Biography of a Locomotive. By Henry Frith.—Mr. Frith is an old favourite with boy readers, and this graphic, dramatic tale of life on an engine is just the style of thing that most boys will devour readily. Mr. Frith himself is an engine lover, and some of the incidents in his story are, he tells us, personal, while others have been related to him by his engine-driving friends. The book is obviously the work of one who knows his facts, and gives a valuable insight into the courage and devotion of the men who daily drive our locomotives.

The White House at Inchgow, by Sarah Pitt, is a story that opens well, with a promise of more interest than most of such works possess, and that promise is honestly kept to the very end of the last chapter. Nell Sage, of the White House, her brother Gilbert, and Ralph, the blacksmith's son, are the three chief personages in the story, which starts with a boy and girl love-scene, and finishes with the marriage of the same boy and girl. But in between the two scenes are many dangers and difficulties for in this case, as in most others, the lovers find that the course of true love runs not smoothly.

Pleasant Work for Busy Fingers. By Maggie Browne.—This is a kinder-garten book for the little ones, which will serve to pass the dreary hours of many a wet and wintry day. Cast in narrative form it yet contains all necessary directions and illustrations for the mysteries of paper folding, paper animals, bead-work, modelling, and the other processes of the kinder-garten, and the directions are admirably clear and concise. It is founded on the well-known "Child's first kinder-garten book," the German work by Messrs. Barth & Neiderley.

A Year's Cookery. By Phyllis Browne.—This admirable cookery book has now reached its twenty-second thousand, and this is in itself the best praise it can receive. It gives a capital menu for every day in the year, and the recipes have the merit of being thoroughly practical, every one of them having been tested anew. A chapter on "Food for Invalids" forms a valuable addition to this edition.

Wanted—a King. By Harry Furniss and Maggie Browne.—This delightful volume of fairy tales was quite deserving of the honour of a new edition. The girl heroine is a delicious little mortal, and the heroes and heroines of the nursery rhymes seem intensely real. Mr. Furniss's illustrations are as charming as the text, and that is saying much.

Elizabeth Gilbert, and her Work for the Blind. By Frances Martin.—This new edition will be gladly welcomed by all the large and ever increasing number of persons who take a real interest in work for the blind. We have learned in the past few years as a nation more fully our duties to those who, while their powers are limited by blindness, yet have the hopes and aspirations common to all humanity, and books like this, telling of practical work for the education and enployment of the blind, have a real value in helping on the good cause.

Eleven Possible Cases. By Q., Anna Katherine Green, Frank R. Stockton, and others.—This volume of eleven short stories, by first-rate authors, is a curiosity. All the eleven are powerful, sensational and exciting. One deals with the extinction of life on this planet (in 1892!); another with a terrible tragedy in which a kiss resulted in the explosion of the two heads that met, and so on. The book is exceedingly prettily got up.

Robin's Ride. By Ellinor Davenport Adams.—Children will revel in this genuine children's tale—one of the most delightful we have come across this season. Poor Little Robin—the small member of the family—pluckily risks his life by riding over a snowy moorland to get something for his elders; and Rex and Win persevere in their efforts to find him, and at last bring him home safely. The illustrations are very pretty.

Public Libraries. By Thomas Greenwood.—The fourth edition of Mr. Greenwood's admirable manual has been thoroughly revised and brought to date, so that it now forms a valuable history of the movement, and also a handbook for the organisation and management of rate-supported institutions of the kind.

The Admirable Lady Biddy Fane. By Frank Barrett.—This delightful romance, couched in the quaint phraseology of a century ago, is above all things original, and its issue in cheap form places a most fascinating book within reach of the masses of the reading public. The Robinson Crusoe life of the hero and Lady Betty is charmingly described.

By Right, not Law, by R. H. Sherard, is the latest addition to Messrs. Cassell & Co.'s series of cheap novels by standard writers. "By Right, not Law," is as good as anything the author has done, and is full of psychological interest of a high order.

The Store-house of General Information. (Cassell & Co.)—The first volume of this work, just issued by Messrs. Cassell & Co., which is all that is as yet published, extends from "A" to "Beas," and within the 380 pages comprising it is an amount of varied information which fairly justifies the title. An encyclopædia in the strict sense of the term it is not, and does not profess to be, but it is well calculated at once to supply the needs of those who cannot afford a more comprehensive work, and at the same time to form a valuable substitute for those who need something handier than the cumbrous sets of volumes, including articles on every substantive in the English language. The work, of which this forms the first volume, is indeed "a store-house of general information," and the information is, so far as can be ascertained by a somewhat hasty inspection, both accurate and up to date. The new work of Aristotle, discovered this year at the British Museum, is duly noted; and the article on Africa (with a well executed map) contains the latest discoveries. The article on Bacteria is another valuable contribution, and the coloured plate illustrative of the subject is admirably executed. The many small illustrations embodied in the text are in all cases carefully drawn, and the standard of the whole is decidedly above the average of such work.

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Delagoa Bay; its Natives and Natural History. By Rose Monteiro. (Philip & Son.)—This altogether charming book is the outcome of five years of solitude spent by the authoress in the country described. The region is one of which comparatively little is known, and readers certainly owe a debt of gratitude to the friends of Mrs. Monteiro who insisted that before starting she should promise to write a book about her experiences. The volume is gathered from her letters to friends at home, which have been cleverly edited by their writer, and form a singularly pleasant, chatty account of "everything in general and nothing in particular" connected with Delagoa Bay, its people, and its natural history. Polities and geographical researches she wisely leaves out, dealing only with her own observations and experiences. All the latest improvements in the town of Lourenço Marques are carefully noted, including the new railway, itself the greatest improvement of all. The illustrations, from the author's own sketches, taken from the actual objects, are admirably artistic.

Home Life on an Ostrich Farm. By Annie Martin. (Philip & Son.)—Everything South African is of the greatest interest just now, and the second edition of this graphic sketch of life on an ostrich farm well deserves the warm welcome it is sure to receive. Some parts of it—notably of the chapters on "ostriches" and "Bobby"—will be remembered by readers of the periodical in which they first appeared, and another chapter is reprinted from one of the daily papers. The rest of the volume is new.

A Girl in the Karpathians. By Ménie Muriel Norman. (Philip & Son.) — Miss Muriel Dowie's—we apologise, Mrs. Norman's—book has already attained the dignity of a fourth and cheaper edition, and now appears with a dainty portrait of the clever young authoress by Miss Margaret Fletcher, one of her many artist friends. A new and utterly characteristic preface is supplied by the authoress herself, written quite in the delightful vein of one of the letters that she used to write before she became famous, over the signature of "Princess Top-Storey."

MESSRS. S. W. PARTRIDGE & CO.'S BOOKS FOR THE SEASON.

IT is difficult to say anything more of Messrs. Partridge & Co.'s Christmas books than has been said in past years. They are as ever beautiful to look at, and their contents are excellent whether one examines them as to literary merit or moral tone. Throughout the whole collection, from the most important volumes to the picture-books for babies runs a spirit of manly morality and practical religion that can hardly fail to aid in helping some of the boys and girls growing up among us to practise in their lives as well as say with their lips, their duty towards God and their duty towards their neighbour.

The Little Bugler. By J. M. Royce.

Mrs. Lupton's Lodgings. By Laura M. Lane. These two prettily bound and illustrated tales may be noticed together. The first is a tale of the heroism of a little bugler during the American civil war, and is perfectly true. It is now issued for the second time.

The second is a pleasant story of a Bloomsbury lodging-house and its inmates, and one is bound to feel as much interest in the love affair of the landlady herself, as in that of pretty Evelyn Seymour her lodger—both of which turn out happily.

Frank Burleigh; or, Chosen to be a Soldier. By Lydia Phillips.—A story of a boyish friendship between two lads, one of whom is to be a doctor, while the other is "a soldier of Christ," though in a merchant's office. The lads are well drawn.

Harold; or, Two Died for Me. By Laura A. Barter.

Who was the Culprit? By Jennie Chappell.

Two small but prettily got up books. The first is a charmingly simple but pathetic tale of a little lad who saves the life (and changes the heart) of a man, giving his own life up.

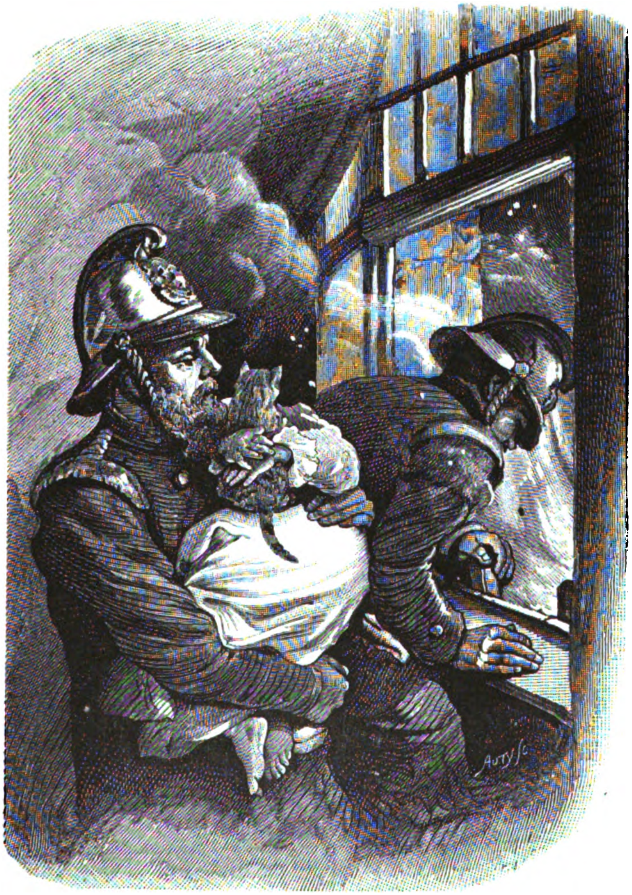
The other is a story of a spoilt drawing, and the detection of the spoiler, after someone else has been wrongly accused, and has run away from home in his fear. However, all ends happily, and the real culprit turns up in the very last person that anyone suspects.

The Band of Hope Companion, by Alfred J. Glasspool, is a handbook for Band of Hope members that should become immensely popular. From the definition of a Band of Hope the book goes on to gossip about the pledge, various drinks, the effect of alcohol on the body and the country, and after answering objectors winds up with an anecdotal and biographical chapter. It is well written and, above all things, practical.

The various periodicals issued by Messrs. Partridge & Co. form in their annual shape a series of handsome and attractive volumes. First among these may be mentioned

The British Workman and *The Band of Hope Review,* two old friends who go on improving from year to year while keeping the old familiar shapes. The literary contents of both magazines are higher in merit than they were years ago, and now are fully strong enough to bear serious critical examination. No words of praise could be too high for the manly Christian tone of both periodicals, and the illustrations are altogether excellent, as may be seen from the specimen we give.

The Mother's Companion and *The Family Friend,* form another familiar pair, outwardly even more attractive than last year, owing to the really beautiful scenes in colours which adorn the covers. Probably to the readers the most valuable part of both periodicals lies in the practical help given on all sorts of domestic subjects—such help

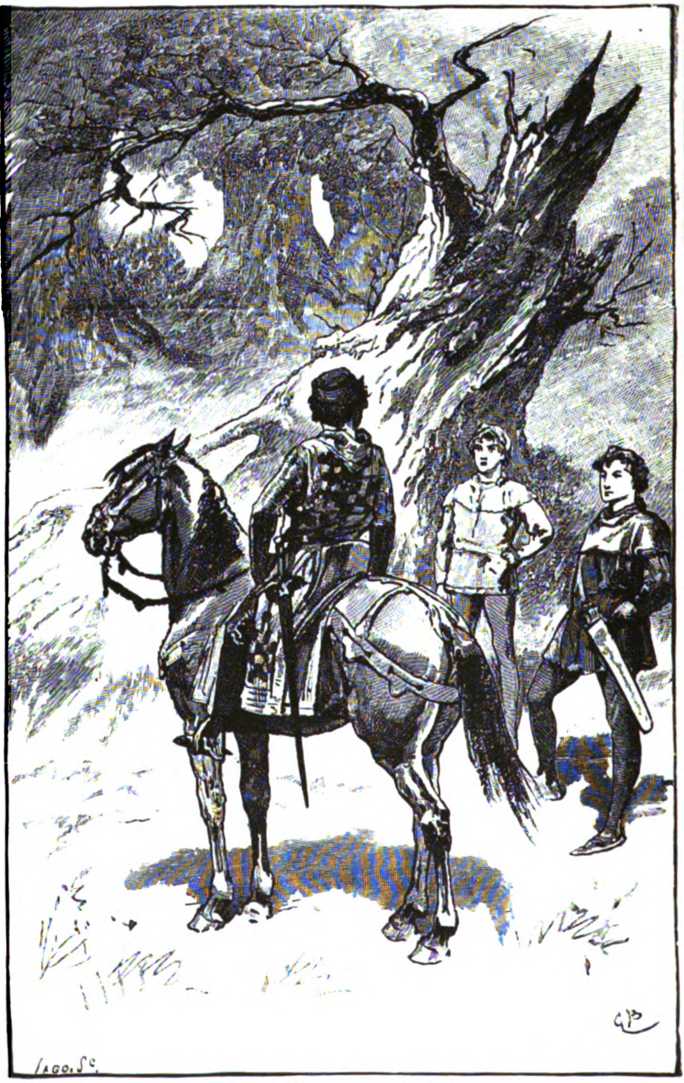


FROM "THE BAND OF HOPE REVIEW."

as makes the volumes really a friend and companion for perplexed housewives, yet there is plenty of reading for leisure and serious moments, and really artistic pictures on almost every page.

The Friendly Visitor might almost be included with the last-named, but for the fact that its different aim renders a different style of literature advisable. Being intended more directly to fulfil the duties of a missionary, or rather visitor, it deals rather with the spiritual than the material needs, yet it resembles the others in that it meets such needs comprehensively.

The Children's Friend and *The Infants' Magazine* need no word of commendation at our hands as suitable and charming gifts for the little ones—and the very little ones. The former is full of such reading as children love, bright pictures, and easy music. The latter is of course simpler, and the pictures more abundant, but both are admirable, each for its proper purpose.



FROM "THE BOY OUTLAW."

Animals and their Young, by Harland Coultas, is a delightful natural history book for children who have received an amount of training. It is restricted to the principal mammalians, and describes these fully and well, while the pictures are drawn with the utmost care and fidelity.

Edwin, the Boy Outlaw; or, The Dawn of Freedom in England. By J. Frederick Hodgetts.—This powerful story for boys, giving such a vivid picture of life in England at the end of the twelfth century, has reached its second edition. The story of Robin Hood is ever fascinating to English boys, and the author tells it well. The historical accuracy of the book gives it a real value apart from its charm.

Sunny Hours and ***Bright Rays for Cloudy Days*** are two pretty picture books for younger children. Both are full of short easy stories in large type; and very dainty pictures, coloured and plain, adorn almost every page.

Wild Bryonie; or, Bands of Steel and Bonds of Love. By Jennie Chappell.—Bryonie Dayre is a truly delightful girl, and old Miss Errol's prophecy, that "only through sorrow will she ever be broken in," strikes the reader uncomfortably. And Miss Errol is not right, with her dreary creed and her eternal self repression, for Bryonie is strong and noble in many ways, and though she passes through a good many troubles these are generally caused by her momentary wildness. Yet she is one of the most charming girl heroines we have met for a long while; and Raymond Errol is a fine manly fellow, and religious as well.

The Crystal Hunters, by George Manville Fenn, is one of those tales of adventure that Mr. Manville Fenn knows so well how to write. This time he takes us into the region of the higher Alps in company with a pleasant specimen of an English boy, an equally pleasant Englishman, and a Swiss guide—a decent fellow enough, pious, and above all things skilled and brave. The adventures the plucky trio meet with are thrilling to read, but they end happily, and the Crystals are found at last in spite of the rascality of the cretin Pierre. The illustrations of Alpine scenery are really beautiful.

Not Wanted; or, the Wreck of the "Providence." By Eliza F. Pollard.—This is the story of a little boy who, "not wanted" by certain people who have an interest in getting rid of him, is apprenticed to the captain of the "Providence," wrecked, deserted, rescued, brought up to manhood's estate by strangers, and finally restored to his family. The story hurries along through exciting scenes at a great rate and is well told.

Eaglehurst Towers, by Emma Marshall, is a powerful story which needs careful reading and deserves a longer notice than we can give. Its heroine makes her appearance suddenly—cast, alone and friendless, from a wreck of which she is sole survivor, upon the hospitality of the lonely master of the Towers. Thence she determines to go to live with a family named Sefton, whose life is bound up with that of old Mr. Wardour of the Towers. A son of nineteen turns up at the Towers, and his gentle influence changes the infidelity of Mr. Wardour, who brings his lovely Angelica back as mistress of Eaglehurst.

By Seashore, Wood, and Moorland. Peeps at Nature. By Edward Step.—Part of this charming book will be remembered, as it formed a couple of very popular little books, published by the author under his pen-name of James Weston. To this, however, very much new matter is added, written in the author's peculiarly pleasant style. Mr. Step has long been an ardent and intelligent lover of nature, and has done a good deal of capital anonymous work. The illustrations are excellent.

Julia Ried. By Pansy.—This author's pen-name is quite enough to tell many girl readers that the story is interesting. It tells just simply and plainly the tale of a girl who has learned to listen for the voice of her Leader, and who listening to the voice is indeed led by paths that she knew not. Her slips she tells of as frankly as possible, and at length is made happy in the love of the man she loves.

The Man of the House is another of "Pansy's" delightful tales. Reuben, the man of the house, is a poor little boy, living with his mother and sister—so poor that he cannot even have roast potatoes for supper on his birthday. Master Reuben, however, is a smart little lad, and resisting temptation after temptation he lands at last upon a comfortable place, and is enabled to "keep his family" in comfort.

Florence Stanley. By Jane M. Kippen.—This is a pleasant story—one of the "Home Library" series, with a second title that indicates its moral, "forgiving much because much forgiven." Florence is a motherless child sent home from India under the care of her aunt. Trouble after trouble comes, and at last she believes she has caused her lover's death by her own folly. Happily this turns out not to be the case, and Florence is duly married.

Michael Faraday: Man of Science. By Walter Jerrold.—This is a new and well-written biography, bringing out simply but forcibly the deeper lessons of the great but modest man of science. Throughout the book runs a thread of highest moral teaching, yet the style is bright and chatty. It is well illustrated, and contains some little-known facts supplied by Miss Barnard, a niece of the professor who lived with him for some twenty years.

Florence Nightingale: The Wounded Soldier's Friend. By Eliza F. Pollard.—This is a companion volume to the last mentioned, and tells graphically the story of the heroine of the Crimea. The great lessons of her life are well brought out—perhaps above all the lessons of obedience and of order, and the yet higher lessons of devotion to God, and forgetfulness of self.

Like a little Candle: or, Bertrande's Influence. By Margaret S. Haycraft.—Bertie Saxon is a little girl, left alone in the world, and taken to live with her uncle and aunt who move in "the best society." With them Bertie tries always to do what is right, and at last her reward comes—her parents have never been drowned after all, and she is restored to her old home.

The Slave and his Champions. By C. D. Michael.—A pleasant little volume on slavery past and present, with biographies of Sharp, Clarkson, Wilberforce, and Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton. It is nicely written and the illustrations are good.

Her Two Sons. By Mrs. Charles Garnett.—This is a story of the two sons (and the two daughters) of a widow lady. Each helps the other, and when Fred is wrongly accused it is his brother Kellett who succeeds in clearing him. The girls are quite as interesting as the brothers.

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Central Figures of Irish History. From 400 A.D. to 1603. By William Francis Collier, LL.D. (Marcus Ward & Co.)—Dr. Collier's book seems to have been inspired by a remark of Mr. Froude's on the instability of the pure Irish race. His object is to depict in graphic style the great actors on the troubled stage of Irish history up to the final conquest in 1603. And his lives of St. Patrick, St. Columba, Brian Borua, and the rest of his heroes are nothing if not dramatic. A most useful connected summary of events is given at the end of the little volume, which really forms a valuable and interesting manual of Irish history.

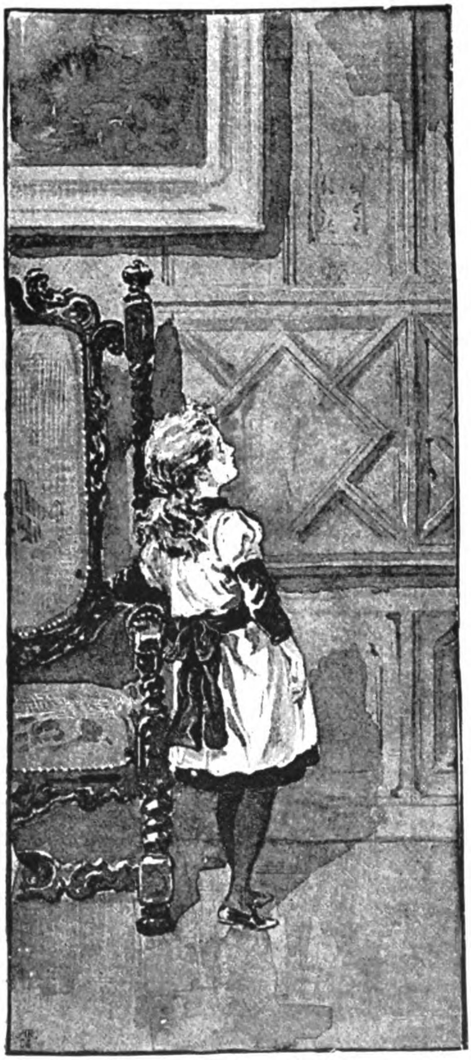
Aunt Charlotte's Stories of Bible History. By C. M. Yonge.

Aunt Charlotte's Stories of English History. By C. M. Yonge. (Marcus Ward & Co.)

These two volumes by Miss Yonge are far too well known, and far too widely popular to need a repetition of the praises so often bestowed upon their earlier editions. There is a fascination in the author's style that at once lays hold of the attention of the little readers for whom these short stories of English and Biblical history are intended. The Bible lessons follow the first lessons for Sundays in the Church's Kalendar so far as Old Testament history is concerned, while the Gospel lessons form a consecutive narrative. The English history is delightfully easy and interesting, and, moreover, correct; which, as Miss Yonge very truly says, children's histories very rarely are. It has now been brought down to 1887. Both volumes are very handsomely produced, and the illustrations are highly artistic and at the same time have been drawn with scrupulous regard to historical accuracy in all cases.

MESSRS. METHUEN & CO.'S PUBLICATIONS.

The Red Grange. By Mrs. Molesworth.—The grace and charm so familiar to those acquainted with this talented writer's stories for children, are conspicuous in *The Red Grange.* The light and sympathetic touch with which Mrs. Molesworth depicts the child-life and the hopes and fears that come within the horizon of a school-girl is her passport into the favour of young readers. Vera Mountjoy is the supposed narrator of this story, and she tells her experience from the time when, as an orphan three years old, she entered Mrs. Watson's seminary until her marriage with the hero of her early dreams, Lionel Walsham. Mr. Gordon Browne's illustrations, one of which accompanies this notice, are executed with delicate artistic skill.



From "The Red Grange." Reduced.

A Pinch of Experience. By L. B. Walford.—An excellent story for elder girls. Rhoda Lupton, the only child of wealthy parents, residing in the country, begins to weary of the monotony of home. She longs for a change in London, where are certain relatives of whom her father and mother disapprove. The wilful and spoiled girl gains her point, however, and spends some time amongst the "vulgar" folks of Cleveland Square. In the end the truth dawns upon her that the wishes of parents, and their knowledge of the susceptibility of young people to baneful influence, claim a fuller recognition than she had been inclined to bestow. Thus her "pinch of experience," though painful, as readers will find, was decidedly profitable. Mrs. Walford has a swiftly-flowing style; and without sensation or mystery, or any commonplace sentimentalism, she contrives in this volume to entertain and to invigorate her gentle readers.

Urith: a Tale of Dartmoor. By S. Baring Gould.—This is a cheap edition of one of Mr. Gould's most vivacious novels. It is sensational, but more nerve-thrilling than blood-curdling. Gruesome in many of its strongest scenes, it is, unquestionably, rousing and absorbing from beginning to end. The weird sensation created in the first chapter of the picture of Urith, crouching at the foot of the Devil Tar stone, waving her blood-stained hands, encompassed by fire and wreathed in smoke, is cleverly sustained throughout the story. Some of Mr. Gould's admirers will probably place *Urith* in the front rank of his works.

Freaks of Fanaticism, and Other Strange Events. By S. Baring Gould, M.A.—This volume, which originally formed the Second Series of "Historic Oddities and Strange Events," is now published under a title more accurately describing its contents. It is a decidedly fascinating volume, particularly those portions dealing with the history of mysticism; whilst the sufferings of the Jews in Russia at the present time give additional interest to the article on "Some Accusations against the Jews."

Historic Oddities and Strange Events, by S. Baring Gould, M.A., 3rd edition, is a cheap issue of a volume recounting the eccentricities of notorious people, and certain mysterious events, of too little importance for exhaustive treatment in works of general history. Amongst such subjects may be mentioned "The Disappearance of Bathurst," "The Duchess of Kingston," "The Locksmith Gamain," "The Wonder-working Prince Hohenlohe," "The Electress' Plot," and "Ignatius Fessler." The topics treated, combined with the author's terse and graphic style, render the volume as deeply interesting as a sensational romance from the hand of a master.

A Summer Night; and other Poems. By Graham R. Tomson.—The worship of nature in her varied moods is the prominent feature in these pretty poems. They are unpretentious, smoothly flowing, and give ample evidence of genuine poetic inspiration. A tone of sadness runs through most of them, with here and there a suspicion of pessimistic tendency. This cannot be said of "Resurgam," and of one or two other poems, which are hopeful and invigorating. Several of the verses are reprinted from the *National Observer, The Atlantic Monthly,* and other periodicals.

The Honourable Miss: a Story of an Old-fashioned Town. By L. T. Meade.—The gifted authoress of "Scamp and I" and "A Girl of the People," takes for her heroine in this story a girl of strong individualty and generous disposition. Beatrice Meadowsweet wins deserved popularity in an old-fashioned town by her straightforward and disinterested conduct. She renounces the man who wishes to become her husband, as well as a part of her fortune, in order to make Josephine Hart a happy woman. Amongst the minor characters are several female wiseacres and busybodies, from whose doings and sayings a humorous element is imparted to the book. The facility with which peculiarities of temper and disposition are hit off, and the dramatic impressiveness in the handling of incidents will probably secure for the story a reception as hearty as that which greeted the writer's former books.

Hepsy Gipsy is another clever story by Miss L. T. Meade, and is adapted for children. It depicts some of the striking scenes of gipsy life, in which Hepsibah, a girl without "a scrap of beauty," and with "hard and cold lines round her mouth," distinguishes herself in the end as "the bravest girl in the world." Pathos and humour are blended on almost every page, and will move the feelings of every juvenile reader.

My Land of Beulah. By Mrs. Leith-Adams.—The heroine of this story is also the narrator. Nellie Vansitart, a baronet's daughter, relates her history from infancy to her marriage with an artist, Royal Drew. She forms other attachments—one with beautiful Eulalie Le Breton, who disappoints the fond love devoted to her by reading a letter not intended for her perusal. Most people will think the statement rather sweeping "That the educated gentlewoman who will dishonourably read a letter not intended for her is capable of anything, and that her wrong-doings will be limited only by her opportunities." Young ladies with a particularly sentimental turn of mind will enjoy the story, but girls of sterner stuff will require more robust entertainment.

The Secret of Madame de Monluc. By the author of "Mademoiselle Mori," &c.—"Madame de Monluc was a woman of her century, and had undoubtedly a dash of Paganism, but she would on no account have neglected to show due respect to Heaven and the priesthood." Thus, in rough outline, the author describes her principal personage. It is in the early part of the century that the story commences, the scene being laid in Paris. The "secret" concerns the paternity of Madame's daughter, Solange, who is beloved by Maxime Laugier. The various characters are presented with a fair amount of skill, and, although the interest seldom flags, one would like to have met now and then with a dash of humour to relieve the sober tenor of the story.

Brand: a Dramatic Poem. By Henrik Ibsen. Translated into English prose by William Wilson.—In the view of the translator, Herr Ibsen has good reason to exclaim "Save me from my friends!" The dramatist's artistic purpose has been misjudged, "because his professed disciples have misrepresented it as a moral one." Mr. Wilson goes on to notice the adverse schools of criticism, and seems to be of opinion that *Brand* is destined to place its author in a more favourable light than that in which many people have regarded him. So far as we have been able to discover the objectionable features in such works as "The Doll's House," and "Hedda Gabber" are not repeated in the present drama.

The Evolution of Plant Life: Lower Forms. By G. Massee.—The chief purpose of this volume is to point out the most prominent features of plant life at the present time, to trace the evolution of such features from primitive types, and "to illustrate the inter-dependence between plants, animals, and inorganic nature." Although dealing with one of the most complex subjects in the "University Extension Series," the book will doubtless prove as useful and as trustworthy as the majority of the volumes already issued.

WESLEYAN CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS.

Her Associate Members. By Pansy.—The books of this genial writer are always distinguished by a charming variation in the healthy sentiments they breathe, and the characters which people them. At once amusing, pathetic and invigorating, the new volume is no exception in the list of "Pansy's" works respecting the features mentioned. The moral and religious teaching is so deftly interwoven with the main drift of the story, that the story would be spoilt if the teaching were omitted. Not the most exacting or precocious juvenile reader could possibly style the religion in the book "dry." Stuart Holmes and Christine Hollister Holmes are the leading figures, whilst numerous youthful characters, and a succession of striking incidents are utilized in constructing a capital story.

The Rabbi's Sons: a Story of the Days of St. Paul, by Emily Weaver, deals with a difficult subject with a fair measure of success. Christians, Jews and heathens are introduced, and St. Paul holds a prominent place in leading Romans and Jews to embrace the faith of Christ. There is doubtless a class of readers who approve of this kind of fiction; and we may safely assert that Apostolic times have formed the basis of less creditable stories than the one before us.

Roger Wentwood's Bible. By Charles R. Parsons.—Dashes of humour, and an occasional ingenuity in hitting off idiosyncrasies will be found in this story, which is religious in tone from first to last. The book teems with platitudes, but nevertheless will doubtless be welcomed in Sunday-school libraries.

Heroines of Faith and Charity. By Annie E. Keeling.—The happy idea of including within the compass of a handy volume a series of monographs of notable women is here effectively carried out. Some of the subjects have often employed the pens of heroine-worshippers, but others will be found of comparatively fresh interest. The names are as follows:—St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine; St. Hilda, Abbess of Whitby; St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Elizabeth of Hungary; The Maid of Orleans; Jeanne d'Albret, Queen of Navarre; Lady Jane Grey; Countess of Huntingdon; Elizabeth Fry; Mary Carpenter; and Amélie de Lasaulx.

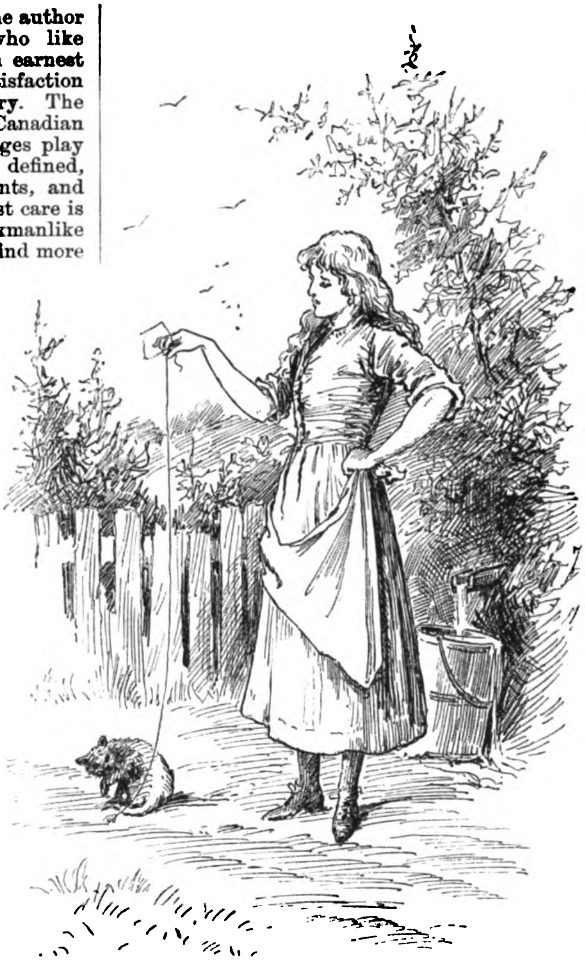
MESSRS. HODDER & STOUGHTON'S PUBLICATIONS.

David Fleming's Forgiveness. By the author of "The Bairns," &c.—Readers who like solidity in fiction with, moreover, an earnest religious tone, will find abundant satisfaction in this elaborate and painstaking story. The books presents a clever delineation of Canadian life, in which many people of all ages play varied parts. Each character is well defined, whilst in the description of incidents, and in building the foundation, the utmost care is exercised to make a wise and workmanlike use of details. Perhaps adults may find more pleasure in the perusal of the story than their juniors; but the latter—at least, the refined and thoughtful of them—having once made headway through the first two or three chapters, are not likely to lay it down until they have discovered to the full extent how and why David Fleming forgave his enemy. There are four excellent illustrations by George H. Edwards, one of which is reproduced in our pages.

The Story of Mackay of Uganda told for Boys. By his sister.—Mrs. Harrison has been well advised to appeal to the healthy instincts of the rising generation with a sketch of her brave brother's life. Alexander Mackay was a hero in an unqualified sense. There was nothing showy or superficial about his fearlessness of danger and his entire devotion to the work of his choice. The narrative here given is deeply interesting, and the whole of the matter is fresh, none of it having appeared in the writer's first and larger biography. We doubt not that the hope expressed in the preface will, in a measure, be fulfilled, and that Mackay's example "will lead many boys to think of Africa, and devote their lives to its moral and spiritual regeneration." The volume includes a capital portrait, and a number of illustrations.

Making the Most of Life. By J. R. Miller, D.D.—A useful volume, tastefully bound, containing twenty-five brief and practical addresses on the duty and privilege of self-sacrifice. The numerous methods of doing good to others are forcibly set forth by striking illustrations and eloquent appeals. Dr. Miller's style is terse and incisive; and we may say emphatically that, to persons of any religious feeling, there is not a dry page in the book. If writers of religious books, intended to be practical, would take pattern from Dr. Miller, many a well-meant effort would not end abortively by sending the readers to sleep.

Rudolph of Rosenfeldt: a Story of the Times of William the Silent. By John W. Spear.—The basis of this story is formed from the chequered experience of two lovers, Rudolph of Rosenfeldt, and Christina Schwarzberg. The course of their true love ran turbulently, owing mainly to the conflicts which prevailed in their own families, and in the Netherlands generally, from the advancing tide of Protestantism and the efforts of Rome to repel it. Rudolph, early in the story, embraces the reformed faith, but Christina refrains from fully renouncing Romanism until the final page is reached, and then the devoted couple are united in marriage. Amongst many striking episodes we get glimpses of historical events, as well as a vivid presentation of the masterful devices of the Jesuits to undermine the structure reared by Luther. A full account is given of the Vehmgerichte and its punishment of heresy, together with its ostensible but specious object of acting as an impartial court of arbitration. The Prince of Orange figures as the unfailing friend of Rudolph throughout the story. For conscientious labour, the ingenious blending of fact with fiction, and the subtle discernment and portrayal of character, the book is a most creditable performance.

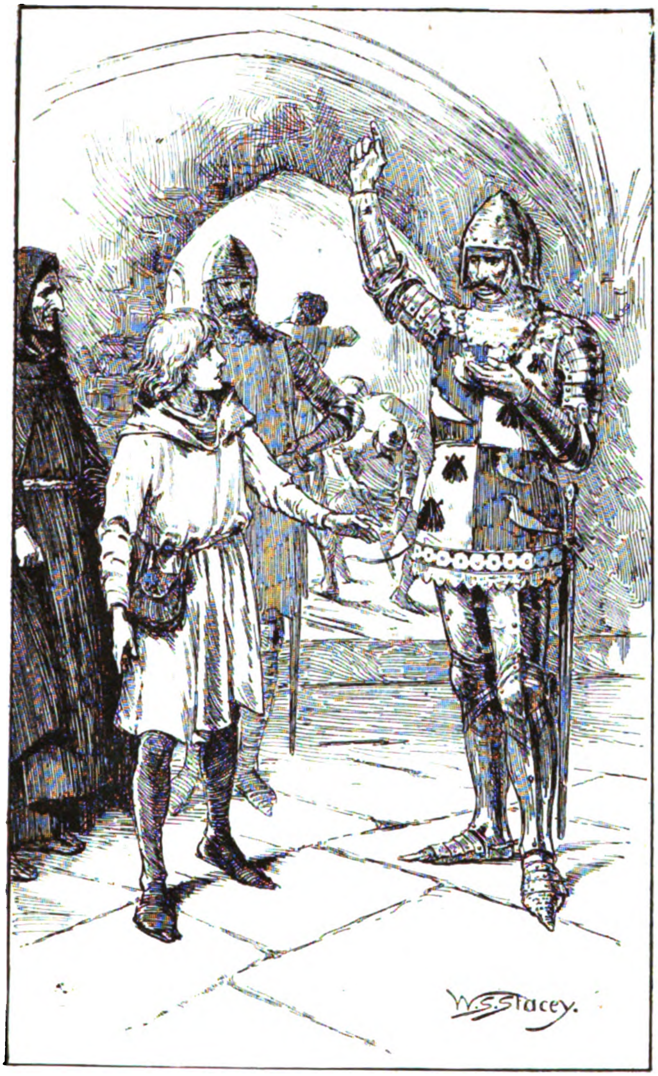


From "David Fleming's Forgiveness."

The above books have been selected for notice out of a considerable number, chiefly because of their appropriateness to the season. Besides these books, however, which are chiefly intended for children, Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton have lately published a number of works of a more serious and weighty character.

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS.

The Abbot's Bridge, by Frances Mary Peard, is a rousing story for boys, the scene of which is laid in England in the fourteenth century. Brave youths and winsome lassies, worthy knights, and stern friars are the chief characters; whilst adventures with wolves, and the gallant defence of the Abbey of St. Edmundsbury against a host of determined rioters form the more exciting incidents. We get a glimpse of the customs of old England, and the tedious methods of warfare by means of the cross-bow and sling. A number of capital illustrations, one of which is reproduced in our pages, enhance the attraction of the story.



From "The Abbot's Bridge.' Reduced.

The Silver Mine: an Underground Story. By Esmè Stuart.—The authoress, who has already made a reputation for herself amongst young people, again displays her gifts for writing a story of homely incident, in which the element of pathos holds a prominent place. The events occur on the coast of Devonshire, and partly in connection with an old silver-mine. The characters are mostly natives of the far west, and are made to talk in the broadest of dialects, which often becomes quaintly amusing. A vein of excitement runs through the tale, and boys and girls will not lay the book aside until they learn the fate of Hilary Pennant and Wolf Redwood.

Fifty Pounds. By Christabel R. Coleridge.—The youths and maidens who read the author's story "The Green Girls of Greythorpe," will find here a vivid description of what befell their acquaintances in the earlier book when they were passing out of their teens. Lessons in high principle, and warnings against dishonesty and cultivating bad company, are conspicuously set forth, but in no way detract from the deep interest pervading the volume.

The Constable's Tower; or, The Times of Magna Charta, by Charlotte M. Yonge, illustrates the courage and loyalty of Hubert de Burgh, at one time Seneschal of Poitou, and afterwards Constable of Dover Castle. The writer, in her preface gives the historical basis on which she founds her story, and whets the appetite for learning more about the sturdy, but tender-hearted Hubert, immortalised by Shakespeare in "King John." Miss Yonge's bright and graceful pen has by no means lost its cunning; and the majority of readers will be disposed to give her latest story a prominent place amongst her many successful works. From the opening description of the noble Castle down to the decisive struggle in the Channel between the English and French the thread of the story gradually gains in strength; whilst a dash of romance relieves the sterner outline of the picture.

King's Ferry. By the author of "Starwood Hall."—The days of the press-gang supply the material for this entertaining story for boys. The doings of a certain ship's-doctor at Weymouth, who tempted on honest man to entrap the unwary into the king's service at the price of five guineas a head, together with the troubles that followed, are told in a racy manner. Although not teeming with exciting incidents, like some of the books of the season, "King's Ferry" contains a strong flavour of mystery, which will appeal to the tastes of a large number of boy readers.

For King and Home, by Mary H. Debenham, is a graphic account of stirring events supposed to have taken place during the rising in La Vendée. A French family, by name d'Hautrive, and their English cousins, Guy and Dorothy Wingfield, are the people whose fortunes are skilfully pourtrayed. The sketch of Dorothy is particularly well executed; and girl readers of spirit and principle will consider her a maiden after their own hearts. The terrible persecutions of the peasants, and the passions that inflamed their foes furnish historical sidelights to a thorougly good story.

Abby's Discoveries. By M. Bramston.—Although about little children, this story, as the author states in the preface, "is not written so much for them as for those who have to do with them." Its aim is to inspire in adults the "ambition to understand ignorance." There is a novelty about this praiseworthy aim, as well as a novelty in the method of treatment, which should commend the book to "elder sisters and brothers, nurses and teachers." To be able to adapt oneself successfully and impartially to the thoughts and feelings of children, indicates the possession of a gift more rare than some people might imagine. From this story told by "Abigail" of the events of her early childhood, many useful hints may be garnered, serving to bridge over the gulf of "ignorance," which often repels the young from our well-meant advances.

Lost on the Moor. By Taffy.—A pretty story for juveniles, telling how poor little "Jack," owing to his brother's misconduct, was lost in a fog, and how he was found at last, and brought home like "a conquering hero returning from a victorious campaign." The Orley boys learned a useful lesson from the disobedience of the culprit.

Mistress Phil. By Mary H. Debenham.—The authoress resorts to the latter part of the eighteenth century for the framework of this story, which is suitable for young people of both sexes. Merry doings at Waltham, of which "good and beautiful Mistress Phil" appears to have been the life and soul, are supposed to be chronicled by one of the youthful personages. May Day festivities, adventures with highwaymen, the inevitable troubles that do not spare even well regulated families, and the music of wedding-bells, as a fitting conclusion, comprise the main links of the narrative which "Eleanor Brand" most cheerily sets forth.

Joan's Victory. By the author of "Starwood Hall," &c.—The force of gentle influence exerted by a child on a woman of a stubborn and unyielding temper, is here exemplified by means of a chatty, simple story. The volume is adapted for village libraries, and provides entertainment, as well as healthy hints, for the successful formation of character.

A Village Genius; a True Story of Oberammergau. By M. Bramston.—A sympathetic and charming sketch of the life of Rochus Dedler, the author of the music still sung at the Oberammergau Passion Play. Dedler was born in 1779, and died in 1822. When a lad, he displayed his musical gifts, and learned to play the violin "in a way which made him the gaping admiration of his family and friends." Music became his ruling passion; and after filling the offices of organist and precentor in the convents of Ettal and Rottenbuch, he composed the work, which won for him no slight celebrity, and which was first performed in 1815. He lived a lowly life, distinguished by its simple piety, amongst the peasants of his birthplace, and died before his time. Nothing will induce the Oberammergauers to change the music for a more modern style, and the score, we learn, is not to be had for love or money. The little volume will gratify both adults and young people.

Kinsfolk and Others. By the author of "The Atelier du Lys."—This story is written apparently for elder girls, and relates the experience—a somewhat troubled one—of Olive Garth, whilst under the guardianship of her grandmother. The high-spirited nature of Olive could ill brook her guardian's old-fashioned notions, whilst her sense of inviolable rights, belonging to her as much as to her seniors, disputed anyone's claim to treat her as an irresponsible child. She found in the end, much to her pecuniary advantage, that the dame had loved her in a way quite unexpected. As a character-sketch the book is admirable; but the incidents are too much tinctured with prosiness and common-place.

Successful Business Men. By Alexander H. Japp, LL.D., assisted by F. M. Holmes, with eight illustrations. (J. S. Virtue & Co.)—There is nothing like example after all, and there is no book more attractive, and at the same time more edifying to the young, than the biographies of those who have pushed their way through struggles until they reached success. Mr. Smiles has done more than any man to help the incipient toiler in life's workshop in this way, and Dr. Japp, who is indebted to the same writer for more than one of the instances that he records, follows in the same laudable path. The examples which are here brought before the reader, are taken from very various walks of life. Three of the number have worked their way from the middle class to peerages, Mr. Samuel Allsopp, Mr. W. G. Armstrong of the famous Elswick Works, and the late W. H. Smith, whose death occurred while the sketch which is here given was passing through the press. A type of indomitable perseverance and determination to succeed is supplied in the noble and Christian character of George Moore, of the firm of Groucock, Copestake & Moore, than whom a more healthy specimen of the commercial profession has not been seen in this century. The world-famous Cook & Son also come in for notice—another example of unswerving application to a single aim. Beginning with provincial Temperance and Sunday School excursions early in the forties, Mr. Thomas Cook, the founder of the firm, lived (and still lives) to see his tourist agency arrived at a pitch of real international importance. The history of the businesses of Messrs. Bryant & May, of Mudie's Library, of the redoubtable Chubb & Son, and of many other famous firms will be found duly chronicled in this entertaining volume.

MESSRS. WELLS GARDNER, DARTON & CO.'S PUBLICATIONS.

Geoff and Jim. By Ismay Thorn.—This is a delightful story of the experiences of two little boys at their first boarding school. Both Geoff and Jim have been well trained at home, and have learned to be brave and truthful, with the result, that, though they often get into scrapes, they generally get out of them without much trouble. The worst adventure comes through Jim's plucky saving of a dog, which, bewildered and frightened, turns on him. Geoff bravely springs between his little brother and the dog, which bites him, but happily not very badly, and both boys are rewarded by the animal's owner.

The Quest of Jack Hazlewood. By Marion Andrews.—This is another story for boys, very pleasantly written. Jack, left penniless, a younger son of a man who died suddenly and intestate, seeks his fortune in a quest of some French treasure-chests lost during the Peninsular War. This treasure he does not find, but he finds another in the shape of the girl who has loved him all through his manifold and varied trials. The false accusation of stealing brought against Jack is well worked up, and the scene in court is very dramatically described.

In Nelson's Days. By George Hewitt.—This is a capital sea-story, its hero being a youngster, who is impressed for service on one of the King's ships, and gets into high favour with the captain and officers, by standing firm when a mutiny breaks out, and by his general smartness. The ship joins Nelson's fleet just before Trafalgar, a graphic account of which is included in the story.

Work, and how to do it, edited by Mrs. Jerome Mercier, is the second edition of this most practical guide to girls in their choice of employment. As the head of the industrial department of the Girls' Friendly Society, Mrs. Mercier knows a good deal about work in general, and her assistants in the various special branches are all experts.

Sunday. — The annual volume of this deservedly popular magazine is, as usual, full of admirable Sunday reading for the young, written by well-known authors, excellent in general tone and teaching, and illustrated in a manner which is quite worthy of the high reputation that the earlier issues have won. The stories, both serial and other, are admirably calculated to pass the somewhat wearisome hours of Sunday afternoon and evening pleasantly and profitably, and the articles are both amusing and instructive. The hymns and hymn tunes are distinctly a feature of the volume, which is, moreover, charmingly produced.

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The Bible Remembrancer. (Morgan & Scott.) —This is a Biblical analysis with an introduction to all the books of the Old and New Testaments, a series of maps, lists of the principal people mentioned in the Scriptures, records of promises and threats, and a host of other matters. It differs in many points from other handbooks of the same character before the public, and is really the reproduction, in an enlarged form, of a volume that has already been widely sold among readers and students of the Bible.

The Prince's Whim, and other stories. By K. S. Macquoid. (Innes & Co.)—This volume of short stories is sure of a wide welcome, for the authoress is already as popular as she is well-known. The first is a curious tale of an eccentric German Prince who takes a fancy to the voice of one of his officers, and insists on his presence day and night. Unluckily the officer desires to get married, and does so, despite the prince's whim, and awkward results follow. All the stories are charmingly told.

Twilight. By Helen Shipton. (Innes & Co.) —It is hard for a reviewer to be compelled by an authoress to read her book through its own fascination, yet it is hard to conceive anyone who having read the opening chapter of this exquisite tale could leave it unread. The plot is nothing—simplicity itself. The beauty of the book lies in the gradual development of the character of the heroine whose senses have been dulled and whose life has been blighted by a false love. Then the hero turns up, and gradually wins her from twilight to the full light of day.

Jack o' Lanthorn. By C. R. Coleridge. (Innes & Co.)—Messrs Innes & Co.'s new "Tip-cat" series will become popular, and most deservedly so, if it goes on as well as it has begun. Almost its latest addition is a new edition of Mr. Coleridge's novel, the quaintness and originality of which have already won for it a deserved success. In its new form it is sure to meet with many new readers.

Raffans Folk. By M. E. Gellie. (Innes & Co.)—This story of a Highland parish is as delightful as the earlier work of the author of "Stephen the Schoolmaster," would lead us to expect. The quiet humours of Raffans folk are depicted with all the skill that she has displayed elsewhere, and the loves of Colin Fraser and Elsie Ogilvie form a very pleasant under-current, though, by-the-bye, their course runs far from smoothly. At length, however, the objectionable Robert Forbes is safely got rid of, and the faithful Colin is duly rewarded by the hand of the fair Elsie, the new mistress of S. Drostan's Manse.

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The History of the English Constitution. By Dr. Rudolph Gneist. Translated by Philip A. Ashworth. (Clowes & Son.)—A new edition of so well-known a work, written by so eminent a jurist and historian as Dr. Gneist, needs no apology. The writer's reputation, in either capacity, were enough to justify the appearance of an English version of his book, but apart from that, there is the fact—however humiliating to Englishmen the admission may be—that Dr. Gneist wrote the first consecutive history of the English constitution. His work has already become known to English readers, and this new edition places within the reach of the *hoi polloi* a carefully wrought-out study, which has hitherto been obtainable only by the elect (in the matter of finances). The author's express wish that his own preface, though primarily intended for German readers, should appear with the English translation, has been carried out, and wisely so, since it contains the reasons which led him to begin his researches into the subject and carry them to their successful issue.

The Odd Number. Thirteen tales by Guy de Maupassant. Translated by Q. Sturges, with introduction by H. James. (Osgood & McIlvaine.)—Short stories are rather the vogue, and the baker's dozen which we have here will doubtless meet with a favourable reception. As a narrator of brevities of this description, M. de Maupassant has had infinite experience, and achieved considerable distinction. It cannot be said that what he offers in this way lacks point. There is point in abundance, and the author makes for it and sticks to it. This is perhaps the chief recommendation of the contents of the book. "La Mère Sauvage" records a possible but atrocious revenge of a French woman for the death of her son in the war of '70; the "Ghost" is thrilling and certainly original; and "A Coward" is an illustration of the paradox that some men fear death so much as to prefer suicide. "A Piece of String" is perhaps the best story of the thirteen, while "The Wreck" would be amusing but for the absurd picture which it presents of English modes of life. The translation might have been better, and is, in fact, hardly worthy of the author that it professes to reproduce.

A Widower Indeed. By Rhoda Broughton and Elizabeth Disland. (Osgood & McIlvaine.)—If any book ever answered truly to its title, it is this novel of joint lady-authorship. When Edward Lygon lost his wife, he had his own name and date of birth inscribed upon her tombstone, beneath the dates of birth and death of her who lay buried there. The date of his own death was necessarily not inscribed—a blank space was left for it; but his heart was nevertheless buried with his dead wife, or at least he thought so. This did not prevent certain overtures and advances being made to the disconsolate widower by those who thought they might fill Anne Lygon's place. Miss Georgia Wrenn, a Southern lady of unusual vivacity, played and fluttered, bird-like, round Edward for a long time without eliciting any responsive movement. His cousin, Albertina Crichton, even went further, and asked him to marry her, or did the next thing to it. The utterly remarkable thing is that he *did* marry her, and on their wedding day left his newly espoused bride in London, and hurried off to Anne's grave, where he was discovered in a condition of doting insanity. He dies a few days afterwards, completely mad. There's a story for you!

Dame Care. By Hermann Sudermann, translated from the German by Bertha Overbeck. (Osgood & McIlvaine.)—According to the legend that forms in a measure the inspiration of this story, a sad-eyed fairy promises health and virtue to a new-born child, on condition of the mother surrendering the infant's soul in exchange. Such is the tale of "Dame Care" told by Frau Meyerhofer to her son Paul, and she is so convinced that it really happened to her and her boy, that the latter comes really to believe it true. His fortunes, strangely enough, fulfil in a remarkable way the witch's prediction. A life of suffering and hardship attend his steps, but he never wants, never ails, and his morals are irreproachable. His father is ruined twice over, his sister's fair fame is compromised, his vengeance almost makes a murderer of him—yet he is saved from the fatal deed. His life at last hangs trembling in the balance, but he gradually revives and recovers, to win, in the end, his cherished bride. For the close of the fairy's promise foretold that the youth's forfeited soul should be restored him by a princess in return for his sacrifice of all for her sake. It comes true. Elsbeth Douglas throws aside brilliant matrimonial prospects and accepts the love of farmer Paul, the old sweetheart and playmate of her childhood.

Tales of Two Countries. From the Norwegian of Alexander L. Kielland. The translation and introduction by William Archer. (Osgood & McIlvaine.)—Mr. Archer, to whom English readers are indebted for much of their acquaintance with the literature of Norway, has done well in introducing the writings of Alexander Kielland to notice. The small volume of "Red Letter Stories" before us contains ten short items, even too brief, some of them, to rank as novelettes as the word is usually understood. Nevertheless they give a fair idea of the writer's powers and peculiar style. His prose is, so Mr. Archer assures us, unexampled in Norwegian literature, and we will do the translator the justice to say that his version of the original is excellent English. A satirical vein runs through Kielland's works, and is discernible in the shorter specimens which we have here—satire and sadness. These qualities may be traced in the "Pharaoh" and the "Good Conscience" of the present selection. A love of nature and a keen observation of it come out both in the "Parsonage" and the "Peat Moor," while the author's familiarity with French types and modes of life may be recognised in "At the Fair" and "Two Friends."

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Writers and Readers. By George Birckbeck Hill, D.C.L. (T. F. Unwin.)—When by good fortune we do get a book from Dr. Hill, we can be sure of its quality. It is all ore and no dross. What was said of his favourite Goldsmith may without exaggeration be said of the products of his pen, that he has never touched anything yet that he did not adorn. His last work is a timely one, discharging an office which has now very few competent holders, the office of training our intellectual tastes, and guiding us in our selection of authors. Of course no man is omniscient still less prescient, and the "Revolutions in literary taste" which forms the first half of these lectures, should serve as a warning against pronouncing definitely upon the permanence of any reputation. The "hundred best books" of 1791—had such a list been compiled—would contain a number of authors whose very names are almost as completely forgotten now as their once celebrated works. The "note" which Dr. Hill finds chiefly distinguishing the present age, is that of dulness, which he finds pervading even the school playground, and exchanging the simple games of his own boyhood for scientifically conducted sports. On this head, the satire and humour of the author constantly shine. At the close he invites his hearers to live in the best of all company, the company of the great creations of the really great writers. With them round our fireside, he says "we can look down with quiet pity upon those unfortunate people who, for want of higher and better society, are reduced to playing baccarat with princes."

Lyra Heroica. A Book of Verse for Boys. Selected and arranged by W. E. Henley. (David Nutt.)—It is generally supposed that boys do not like poetry, but Mr. Henley has certainly produced a book that boys will like. His idea seems to have been to choose out a certain number of those achievements in verse, which, expressing the simpler sentiments and the more elemental emotions, may fitly be addressed to English boys. Mr. Henley is above all things manly, and therefore, perhaps, above all things still a boy, and a gentleman; and there is not a line in his book that is not boyish, and manly, and gentlemanly. He has gone far and wide for his selections, which have been gathered from sources as widely diverse as the works of Shakspere and Rudyard Kipling, or Ben Jonson the rugged, and Andrew Lang the apostle of dainty grace in verse.

Land Travel and Seafaring. By Morley Roberts. Illustrated by A. D. McCormick. (Lawrence & Bullen.)—Mr. Morley Roberts has knocked about the world more than most, and his adventures afford excellent reading. A considerable portion of the present volume has already found its way into print in the pages of various magazines, so that it hardly has the character of a new book. The position of a steerage passenger on board a Melbourne-bound emigrant ship some score or so of years since, was not the most luxurious that can be imagined. Our author had to lie "cheek by jowl, four in a bunk, with unclean Irish of unsavoury aspect and odour," and it is hardly surprising that, long before the voyage came to an end, he heartily regretted his English home, "though I would have died sooner than confess it even to myself." However, at eighteen one puts up with discomforts, and the life that awaited Mr. Roberts as a "Colonial experiencer" on the Murray soon inured him to the seamy and thorny side of existence. After spells of work and searchings for work, ridings and trampings, hunger and thirst and nakedness—he was without food once for 106 hours—Mr. Roberts determined to return home before the mast, and came back to London as Edward Mitchell, A.B. in the barque "Wessex" not without further exciting incident and adventure. Mr. McCormick's sketches are admirable, as might be expected of one of the most gifted of our rising artists.

Adrift in America; or, Work and Adventure in the States. By Cecil Roberts, with an appendix by Morley Roberts. (Lawrence & Bullen.)—The picture presented in these pages is taken from life, and the author is the principal figure. He was one of many, men even of education, who make for America in youth, and then "go West;" aimlessly wandering in the ceaseless hope of bettering themselves, and sinking at last into little more, if at all, than the status of a common tramp. In this case, however, the journey was not wholly profitless considering the history of adventure which is related in this volume. The experiences of a winter in Dakota with its blizzards and its wolves deserve a reading, after which we may turn to accounts of rail-fencing and cowboy riding in New Mexico, with some insight into the cheap rate at which human life is still held in these parts, and the ease with which the murderer usually escapes. It was not long before the author acquired the tramp's method of "beating his way," *i.e.* of travelling for nothing by rail. This may be done variously; by esconcing oneself in the iron stays beneath the carriage, by hiding in the baggage car, by riding in front of the engine just over the cow-catcher, or by travelling more slowly but more easily in a freight-train. When Mr. Roberts got back to New York his troubles were not over, and at the last moment he was drugged and conveyed on board an outward-bound ship, from which, however, he contrived, as soon as he regained his senses, to escape to shore under cover of the darkness.

The Birthday Book of Quotations, and Autograph Album. (Whittaker & Co.)—Of the making of birthday books there certainly is no end in view at present; but this one stands out above its compeers, if only by reason of its having already attained the proud pre-eminence of a third edition. But there are other reasons for this, as the reader may guess, for H.R.H. the late Duke of Albany was far too keen a critic, and far too able a scholar, to commend a work as he did this, unless he had been fully and conscientiously able to speak well of it. For each day in the year three quotations are given, one in English, one in French, and one in German; and the knowledge of the literature of all three countries displayed by the authoress is such that it would puzzle anyone to guess whether she had graduated in one or all of the countries. So good is the selection that it forms a really valuable storehouse of gems from the literature of England, France, and Germany; and the arrangement is thoroughly scholarly and tasteful. Blank spaces are left for autographs and other jottings; and also artistically engraved frames are provided, so contrived as to be available for portraits of all sizes.

Student's History of England from B. C. 55 to 1689 A. D. By S. R. Gardiner. 2 vols. (Longmans & Co.)—Mr. Gardiner's distinction as an historical writer is in itself sufficient commendation of the work which he now issues. Considering the extensive period covered by these two somewhat slender volumes, it will not be expected that the ground traversed is attempted to be exhaustively treated. It is premised that the student have some knowledge of his subject, and what is then offered is an able and lucid outline of events, with suggestion of such works as may be consulted for a fuller detailment of the period. This being presupposed nothing could be better than the aid thus placed before the reader. The long line of historical narrative is presented in bold and incisive paragraph form, written moreover in a decidedly pleasing style which sometimes rises from the mere recital of events to passages in which we pause to admire the facile writer of English prose of the best kind. The text is accompanied by illustrations of an order best calculated to assist the student. Instead of fanciful and so-called historical conceptions of what never existed, we have engravings of coins, contemporary architecture, reproductions from ancient illuminated MSS., figures from sepulchral monuments, and other illustrations from the past, which are valuable as so many real lights upon the clouded vision of distant circumstances.

The Adventure Series. Illustrated. (T. F. Unwin.)—The new serial library, started some eighteen months since, has amply fulfilled its first promise. There are now ten volumes published, and all of them worth reading. They began with the history of the *bravo* Trelawny, the friend of Byron and Shelley—a sufficiently romantic career in itself; which was followed by the account of Robert Drury's captivity in Madagascar in the early part of the last century, supposed to be the compilation of the author of "Robinson Crusoe." A very curious piece of personal narrative succeeded in the memoirs of John Shipp, the soldier who, not only once, but twice rose from the ranks to a commission; and the autobiographic records of the mariner of Penrhyn, Thomas Pellow, describing his twenty-three years' imprisonment by the Moors are hardly less entertaining. Of other volumes subsequently published, "The History of the Buccaneers of the Seventeenth Century" deserves particular mention, with its portraits of the freebooters that made the Spanish Main a warm corner at that period. So also we must recall Professor Vambéry's "Voyages of Mendez Pinto the Portuguese," and the self-told "Life and Adventures of Captain Eastwick," perhaps the most deeply interesting of the series which has yet appeared. The last issued volume of the library takes us back to the early years of the present century, and introduces the reader to the warlike Klephts of Thessaly and Epirus, who, half brigands, half soldiers though they were, had for generations kept the torch of Greek emancipation alight, and contributed in a very large degree to the final independence of their country. The history of their valour is given in the autobiography of Kolokotronés, the most illustrious of the band; side by side with whom fought many brave patriots, Niketas the Leonidas of the revolution, nicknamed the "Turk-eater;" Botzares the Aristides of the movement, and the martyr Diakos, who, with fifty followers defended a second Thermopylæ against the overwhelming numbers of the enemy until every man was slain. It is pleasant to think that the valorous Kolokotronés lived for long after the final emancipation of his country far into its first king's reign, and died in peace and honour on February 4, 1840, having only the night before attended a court ball at the palace, and bidden his sovereign farewell.

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The Imitation of Buddha. Compiled by Ernest M. Bowden. With a Preface by Sir Edwin Arnold. (Methuen & Co.)—This Buddhist anthology might well have appeared under a title less suggestive of comparison with the work of à Kempis. It consists of passages selected from a wide range of Buddhist literature arranged as texts for every day in the year. They serve to illustrate the lofty benevolence and wisdom which govern the tenets of the Buddhist faith and teachings, and their daily contemplation will be found wholesome and profitable. The little volume in which the verses and maxims are enshrined, has been most tastefully produced. It is printed on hand-made paper, and is very neatly bound, the emblematic wheel and lotus flower appearing in the ornamentation. Sir Edwin Arnold's prefatory commendation will alone suffice to interest many readers in its favour.

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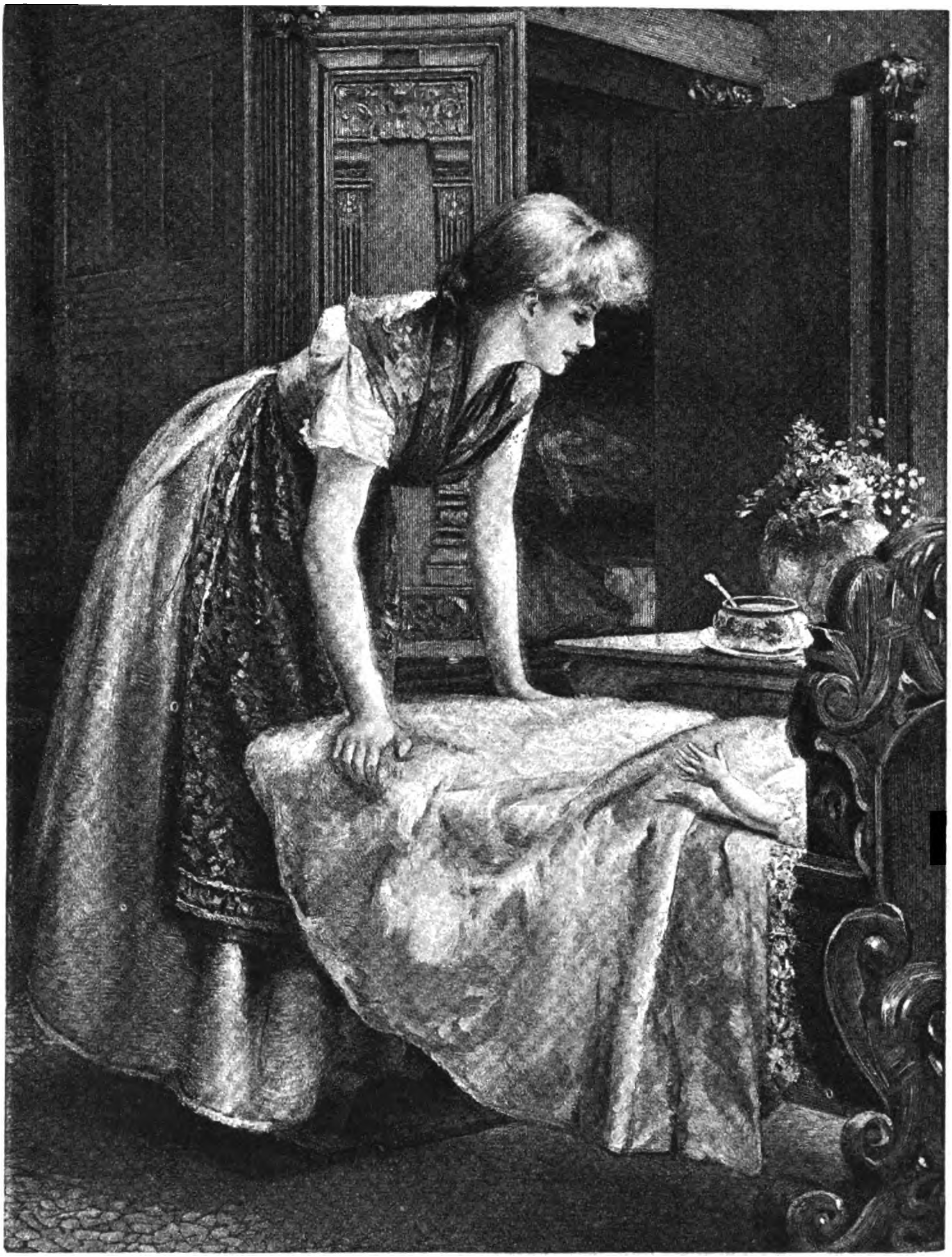
Leaves from the Log of a Gentleman Gipsy: in Wayside Camp and Caravan. By Gordon Stables, M.D., C.M., R.N. (Messrs. Jarrold & Sons.)—In handsome binding and profusely illustrated, this delightful record of unconventional tours in England and Scotland promises to meet with wide approval as a Christmas gift-book. Dr. Stables was inspired to roam the country in a caravan by the comfort, compactness, and neatness of, what must evidently have been, a model Romany turn-out, which he happened to meet one day in the lanes of Berkshire. After a good deal of "thinking, dreaming, and planning," he constructed the saloon-caravan, "Wanderer," in which, "for six springs, summers, and autumns," he lived the life of a nomad. He was so entirely captivated with his experiences on the road that he urgently recommends a similar mode of enjoying one's vacation as "the most healthy and fascinating" that could possibly be devised. The pleasures of house-boat life are trifling, apparently, compared to the ever-changing round of entertainment derived from a trip through rural England in a well-springed "house," drawn by a pair of sturdy steeds. Dr. Stables now publishes these "Leaves," partly with the view of popularising his favourite method of touring, and also for the purpose of interesting "lovers of the country, of nature, of nooks and waters, and wild flowers." As another outcome of his journeyings he proposes to form "a Gentlemen-Gipsy Club, to tour and camp in the loveliest parts of our own lovely land." North, south, east, and west, the curiosity of gaping villagers and sober townsfolk was excited, often in an exceedingly droll fashion, and sometimes in an alarming manner. Racy sketches of the people encountered on the road, amusing anecdotes, glowing descriptions of scenery, and occasional glimpses of busy commercial centres are mingled, with exhilarating variation, in these diverting pages. The haphazard way, the glorious confusion, in which nature, in many aspects, and human nature, in strange guises and of all grades, are tumbled together, will be considered by numerous readers the strongest relish of the book. Its piquant freshness and winning candour must disarm the most exacting critic. Dr. Stables retains, happily, the overflowing spirits of boyhood; and if he offends the thoughtful by an excess of ardour, he makes ample amends by having provided an excellent tonic for mental depression in the dull days of December.

Love Unfeigned. By M. A. Paull. (Jarrold & Sons.)—This is a charming story of a yet more charming governess whose brother gets into trouble through being accused of stealing. He is sentenced to fourteen years penal servitude, and his sweet sister gets a week in prison for a clumsy attempt to change places with him. Then it turns out that Joe was innocent, and the theft was perpetrated by a kleptomaniac lady, and Joe gets £500 compensation for false imprisonment (lasting a long way short of fourteen years) and his fair sister gets a husband whose love has been tested and is therefore presumably unfeigned.

MR. NISTER'S BOOKS AND BOOKLETS.



If it were doubtful a year ago whether Mr. Nister's exquisitely artistic productions should be styled books or booklets, it is perfectly certain this year that, while many dainty items in the collection are booklets only, there are many also that are unmistakably books. For it is quite impossible to regard as anything but books—and exceedingly handsome books too—some of these volumes with elaborately chased and gilded cloth bindings, which come first upon the list. They are books indeed, and books that will form appropriate and conspicuous ornaments in many an artistic drawing-room and snug boudoir this winter. Every resource has been called into requisition that wealth and skill could suggest even down to the smallest detail, and the reader is at a loss whereon first to lavish his admiration. The beauty of the illustrations is remarkable, and remarkable for various reasons. Take, for instance, the larger of the two illustrations which we reproduce—a picture called "Mother's darling" taken from Mr. Nister's *Holiday Annual*. It is of course out of the question to attempt to convey in black and white any real idea of the beauty of the coloured pictures abounding in all Mr. Nister's publications, yet even deprived of colour the grace and life of the drawing are perceptible enough. And not only is the drawing full of artistic charm, but this is backed up by the employment of every refinement that the utmost skill and the latest discoveries can suggest, for the various processes of reproduction. The whole series of these works deserve the highest possible praise for their beauty, while the literary contents, instead of being mere trashy verse utterly unworthy of the pictures, are for the most part gems from the masters of English poësie whose works are and must remain fit for the highest workmanship that art can bestow upon their cutting and setting. The children's books, which form a prominent feature of Mr. Nister's list are every whit as perfect as those intended for adult readers. There is no idea of giving careless drawing or crude colouring to the little ones, but every picture is as much a work of art as in the most important volume. So too, with regard to the booklets, which are still apparently as utterly popular as when first introduced. These are published by Mr. Nister in a host of forms, but all bearing the mark of artistic skill in designing, literary excellence in compiling, and marvellously perfect workmanship in producing. Nor are books and booklets all that Mr. Nister has to show us, for he has spent the months of the year that is drawing to a close in inventing and executing a host of quaint calendars and other oddments of the kind that are at once beautiful and curious. In these as in all his other works there is plenty of rich colouring, of artistic drawing, and of clever manipulation.

THE MINERVA LIBRARY OF FAMOUS BOOKS. Edited by G. T. Bettany, M.A. (Ward & Lock).—Although the rage for publishers' "Libraries" and "Series" would seem to be overdoing itself, yet the popularity of the thing is undoubted, and the fashion seems likely to last for some time. Certainly some of these sets of publications and reprints appeal more strongly to the public than others, and amongst the more successful enterprises of the kind, the "Minerva Library of Famous Books," issuing under the editorship of Mr. Bettany, may be particularized as having taken the general fancy to a remarkable extent. To be able to get such works as Carlyle's "French Revolution" or Emerson's "Prose Writings;" such *chef d'œuvres* of the naturalist as Darwin's "Beagle Journal," Galton's "South Africa," or Wallace's "Travels on the Amazon"—to quote no more instances—and to have the entire work in good cloth covers for the sum of a florin, is indeed a triumph in the way of publication. The "Minerva" has now reached its thirty-first volume, and already includes many of the most famous books, both English and foreign, in the history of literature. For public libraries, or smaller country and village reading-rooms, they are just the thing, and we can give the secretaries of such institutions no better advice than to request Messrs. Ward & Lock to pack them off the entire series. The last accessions to the list consist of Mrs. Gaskell's masterpiece, "Mary Barton," Ingram's "Life of Poe," and Charlotte Brontë's "Shirley." To each of the volumes is prefixed some introductory biographical data from the pen of the editor.

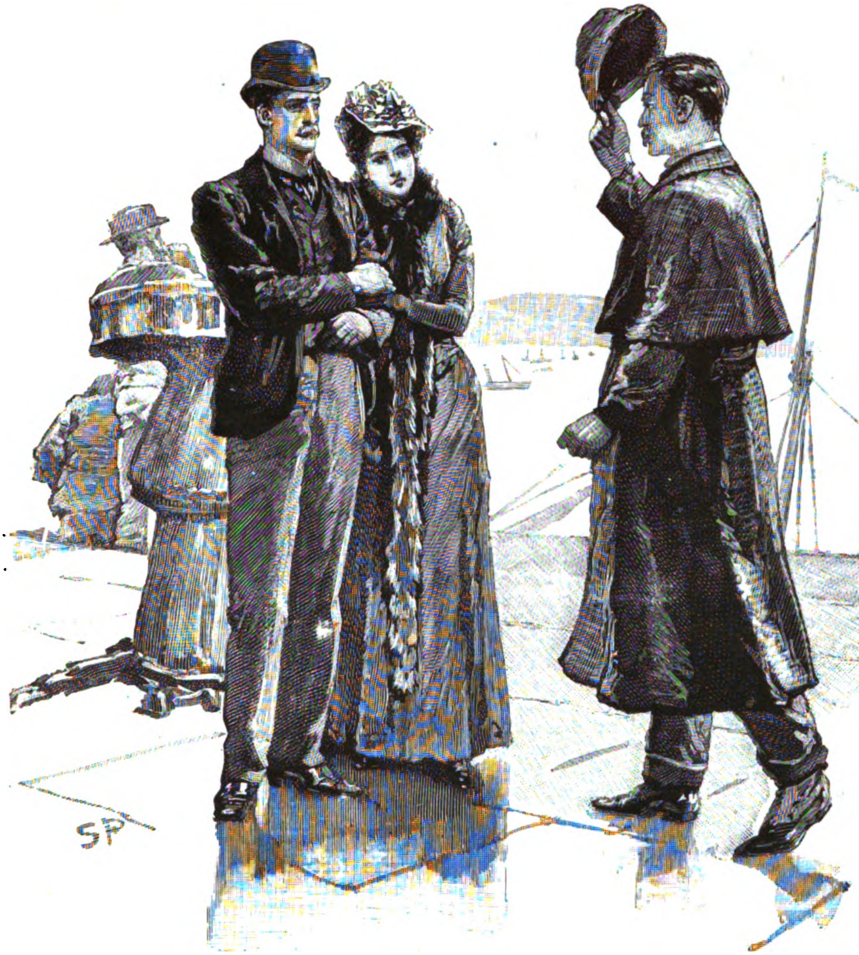
The Works of Richard Brinsley Sheridan. With a memoir by J. P. Browne, M.D. (Ward, Lock, & Co.)—This edition contains the two volumes. which were originally printed separately, in one. The memoir, containing extracts from the life of Sheridan by Thomas Moore, is admirably written; and the portrait which forms the frontispiece is a steel engraving from the picture by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The paper and print are especially commendable, and the general appearance is as good as that of the other volumes of the "Macaulay Library of Great Writers," of which it forms a part.

The Doctor at Home: and Nurse's Guide-Book. Edited by George Black, M.B. Edin. (Ward, Lock, & Co.)—This volume, for which Mr. Black is responsible, seems to be a practical, trustworthy, and comprehensive manual; which may be readily consulted and easily understood by the merest layman. The diseases of women and children are very fully discussed, while general hints are given on the structure and composition of the human body, the nature, causes, and treatment of the diseases to which the body is subject, its maintenance in health and strength, and the prolongation of life.

His Angel. By Henry Herman. (Ward, Lock, & Co.)—There are few readers, even among hardened devourers of thrilling novels, who will lay this book down before they come to the foot of the last page, after having read the first sentences. The dramatic way in which the heroine is introduced at the execution of her father for murder and theft by a band of reckless American frontiersmen is quite enough to at once arouse the reader's sympathies for her. And this interest is kept up all through. The descriptions of scenery are magnificent, and the whole book is worthy of Bret Harte, of whom it is suggestive.

Golden Leaves Picture-Book. By Muriel Evelyn.—These short stories in simple language, are thoroughly childlike in style, printed in very large type, and prettily illustrated; while the moral teaching is of course unexceptionable.

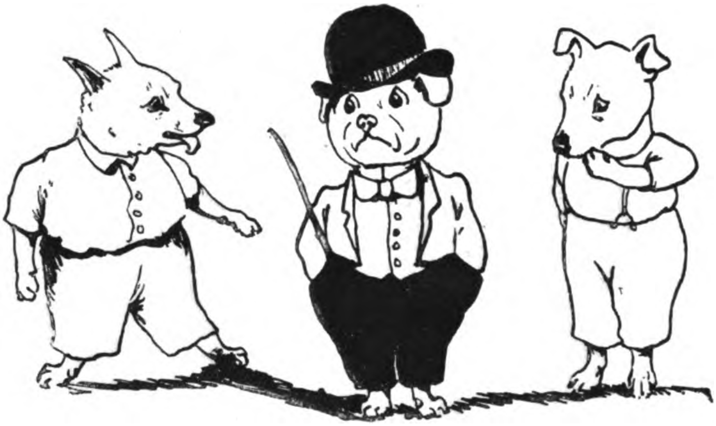
CASSELL'S FAMILY MAGAZINE.



The handsome volume which Messrs. Cassell have issued is, as usual, verily and indeed a "family magazine." For it is intended to supply reading, amusement, and instruction suited to every member of a family, and though the family were as large as a Mormon elder's, and though its every member had his or her own especial tastes and hobbies, there would not be one from the grandfather in his rocking chair to the baby in its cot who could not find something in the seven hundred and fifty pages suited to the particular needs of the case. Five complete stories of portentous length are woven in and out as serials throughout the volume, the authors including George B. Burgin, Kate Eyre, Thomas Keyworth, Ida J. Lemon, and C. E. C. Weigall. As for short stories their name is legion, and their scenes and incidents include every variety known even to nineteenth century authorship, while their authors are for the most part among those whose names are already inscribed upon the roll of popularity if not of fame. The articles on cookery, health, gardening, dress, domestic management and kindred topics are sufficiently numerous to form in themselves a complete treasury of information, whilst there are plenty of songs and pieces by eminent composers for worshippers at the shrine of the goddess of Harmony. Four hundred pictures have been specially designed to enliven and illustrate this mass of literature, and the one of these which we reproduce may serve to show how high is the average merit of this artistic collection.

Lilian and Lili. By the author of "Mademoiselle Mimi." (Innes & Co.)—There are few authors who equal the writer of this tale in her own line, and the book before us contains two of her most charming girl studies. One is a little Anglo-French girl whose quaintness is delightful. At Rescar, in England, her experiences are not altogether pleasant, and she remarks "I love not the English life, nor the English people . . . . I should die if I had to like the English ladies, and go to *réunions* where there is too much to eat and no conversations, and attend to gardens and charities and sit in a *salon*." And it is in this mind that she acts, bids farewell to England and its ways, returns to Dieppe, and settles down into Madame Carettu.

THE ROSEBUD ANNUAL.



Messrs. James Clark & Co.'s annual for the little ones is as delightful this year as in the past. Indeed, it certainly is not too high praise to say that in its own department there is nothing that we know of in any way rivalling it as a treasure-house of picture and song, of story and poem, for little readers. It is of course intended only for the little ones, and its short tales in big type, its easy verses, and, above all, its charming illustrations, are just what any child is absolutely certain to revel in. The illustrations number over three hundred—they appear in all looked-for and unlooked-for places, they are of all sizes, and of every variety from broadly humorous to seriously instructive. Yet, though meant for children, one can hardly imagine an adult so serious that some of these delicious sketches would not force a smile. We have but space to reproduce a single small one, but all are good, from the dainty cats grouped upon the coloured frontispiece, to the thievish monkey on the last page. Not the least delightful picture is that of the owls descending a staircase which is blazoned in gold and colour upon the scarlet cloth of the binding.

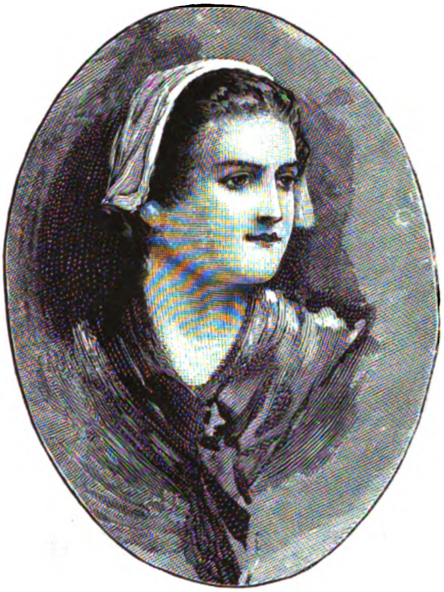
Memorials of the Rev. John Frederick Stevenson, D.D. By his wife. (James Clarke & Co). —There are many readers who will thank Mrs. Stevenson for writing this modest but most careful study of her husband's life. The memoir of Dr. Stevenson, and the account of his life at home and in Canada, is of great interest; and perhaps even more valuable in estimating his sterling character at its true worth, will be the letters written by eminent men like Dean Norman, Dr. Allon, Dr. Mackennal, and others, when the cruel disease from which he had suffered so long terminated fatally. The extracts from his sermons and writings will be gladly read and treasured, and the interest of the book is increased by the excellent photograph of Dr. Stevenson which forms the frontispiece.

She Loved a Sailor. By Amelia E. Barr. (James Clarke & Co.)—Any story by the author of "Jan Vedder's Wife" is sure to be worth reading, and this is eminently true of this latest addition to her works. The story is laid at the time when King William IV. occupied the English throne and Andrew Jackson held sway at Washington, and deals with the fortunes of a pair of lovers, the English sea-captain, Marius Bradford, and the lovely American Virginia Mason. Both these leading characters are delightfully drawn, and the manly faithful Marius, true to his love through all the perils and crosses that mar the wooing, is one of the pleasantest heroes we have come across this long while. Virginia, in her tender maidenly way, is equally charming, and the story ends happily, as it should do. The local colouring is particularly good, and the book gives a careful study of English and American life half a century ago.

In the Stranger People's Country. A novel by Charles E. Craddock. (Osgood, McIlvaine & Co.) —After making its appearance in magazine form, "Charles Egbert Craddock's" new story comes forth in the shape of a book. The author reverts to the scenes and types with which she has already made us familiar, and in describing which she is *facile princeps*. Tennessee is again the locality selected, and its rural inhabitants are the personages of the tale. The Stranger People or, "the Little People" referred to in the title, are the supposed pigmy dwellers in the land in aboriginal times whose cemeteries are believed to have been discovered in the Smoky Mountain district and other parts of the State. An antiquarian interest is imparted to the story through the researches of Shattuck, one of its characters, who is bent upon exploring these burial places of the past. The attention of the reader, on the other hand, is more particularly centred in the hero, Fee Guthrie, an incarnation of rustic vitality, whose passion for Letishy Pettingill forms the main thread of the narrative. It ends sadly enough. Fee, though impetuous and unreasoning in his love, is honest enough. He suspects the antiquarian student of rivalling his pretentions to the hand of Letishy, and, as it turns out, quite unjustly; all the time that he is completely blind to the responsive flame which was consuming the girl's heart in that quarter. The tale ends amid tragic circumstances; Guthrie falls under the Sheriff's bullet, and Letitia pines away for love of the stranger whom she had for so long secretly adored.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

Young England.—The handsome volume of this most deservedly popular periodical for young people and the family circle is as usual a storehouse of excellent literary matter for recreation and instruction. The very frontispiece—the picture of the fireman giving an account of one of his experiences to a group of newsboys, shoeblacks, and other lads—is thoroughly attractive, and the illustrations throughout the volume are all that could be desired. We have no space wherein to reproduce any of the larger of these, but we give a small reproduction which must serve to indicate the merits of the rest. Mr. Ascott R. Hope contributes a short serial story called "The Lads of Lucknow," and among the other writers of serials are Mrs. G. Linnæus Banks, and a number of other more or less well-tried and popular authors. The short stories are admirably written also, but perhaps the greatest strength of the volume lies in its miscellaneous articles, on every imaginable subject. The "Sunday Hour" is a valuable feature of the periodical, the general tone of which is as thoroughly unobjectionable as ever.



From "Young England."

The Sunday School Teacher has now reached the fifth volume of its new series, and as a biblical and educational magazine for Sunday School teachers, it is difficult to imagine anything much better. It is, in fact, a veritable treasury of illustrations, biblical criticism and other helps for preparing Sunday School lessons—that terribly responsible and terribly difficult task, the full difficulty and responsibility of which generally come home to the teacher with the greatest force when the body and mind are jaded with a week of toil. The skeleton lessons supplied are admirable, but, apart from these, the volume contains a vast mass of papers and articles that are prepared with the great aim and object of at once enlightening the intellect of the teacher, and broadening his or her sympathies with the children—of placing the teacher in touch with the children. There is plenty of material to be worked up and thought out by those teachers who have leisure; there is plenty also that will be of use to those most unfortunate teachers who, with the best will in the world, can spare but the daily few minutes and the one hour on Saturday night wherein to prepare for the exercise of their high and sacred calling.

The Microscope and its Lessons. By James Crowther.—This is a story of the invisible world, with pictorial descriptions of its inhabitants—tiny specimens that we know nothing of until we get a glimpse of them enshrined in Canada balsam between a couple of thin bits of glass, and laid upon the stage beneath the object glass of a powerful microscope. The author is an all-round microscopist, and as much at home among entomological and geological specimens, as he is with the *volvox globator* of pond-life, the *diatomaceæ* of the weed-grown waters of a certain place near Bromley, or the spinning apparatus of a spider. From his scientific explorations he has extracted no little Christian teaching, and the different wonders of the microscopic creation are admirably shown in the many illustrations.

King and Hero. By J. Johnson Leak.—The story of Gustavus Adolphus has often been told before, yet the life history of the great Christian King, the hero of the Thirty Years War is one that is ever new, and ever fascinating. And Mr. Leak has dished up the old materials with a new sauce, so that the fragments laid aside by the last generation of readers are brought forward, and will pass muster, as a new entrée among the literary epicures of the present. The giants of the war are by his skill made very real to the reader's mind, yet Wallenstein the traitor and Pappenheim the dashing cavalry soldier are almost dwarfed by the overpowering personality of the good and great King. The story of the death of the latter is powerfully told, and the writer has evidently taken the utmost trouble to sort out the facts from legends which have overgrown them.

Treasure Lost and Treasure Found. By the Rev. R. G. Soans, M.A. and Edith C. Kenyon. —The name of one of the authors who are bracketed on the title-page is quite sufficient to assure the reader of a high quality of literary work, and really the plot of this story is worthy of all praise for its careful and skilful construction, and for the way in which it is worked out. The development of the character of young Horace, who "might have been Squire," and who dies in saving the life of the true heir in the fire at the last, is powerfully indicated, especially in the gradual, almost imperceptible advances he makes in the narrow way. Aline is altogether a delightful heroine, and the descriptions are full of life and vigour.

Silverbeach Manor. By M. S. Haycraft.—This is a pleasantly written story of a country girl who is "taken up" by a rich lady struck by her pretty face, and adopted. Poor little Pansy plunges into society forthwith and has rather a good time, having a love affair wherein she loses her heart and her lover marries a widow of greater personal charm, probably greater wealth, and certainly more tolerable education. The luckless heroine then goes in for religion, and in the end makes rather a good thing of it—from all points of view, of course.

A String of Stories, by Ascott R. Hope, is sure to be a string whereon are threaded a certain number of pearls. And on the string here placed in the readers' hands there are eight beads, each one of which is in its own way a pearl — not of great price, happily, but most surely of purest ray serene. The first of the series, "Master and Man," is just such a one as Mr. Hope tells best. A master and his man wish to change places, and in the night each dreams that he was the other. In the morning they meet, but changed in spirit. Each has realised the troubles of the other; and, as the man says, "a few years more, and how little difference will there be between master and man." The other stories are equally good, and the volume is capitally illustrated, as may be gathered from the picture we reproduce, taken from a story of a ghost, called "The Right of Way."

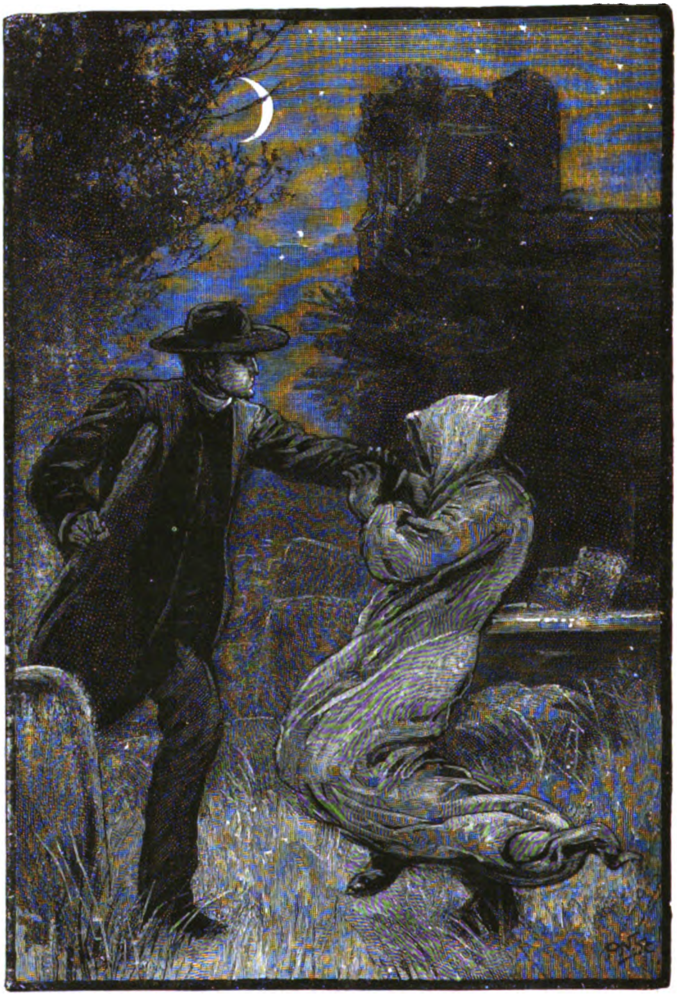
Week In, Week Out: Little Lessons of Labour. By the Rev. Frederick Langbridge, M.A. — Mr. Langbridge has put together a pleasant little book—just a simple series of brief chats about different trades, with a few verses appended to each. He talks with his readers of the different callings whereby men get their bread, earning it as God ordained "in the sweat of their face," and in every case brings out clearly and forcibly the lesson that each trade seems specially to suggest.

Gaspar. By C. M. Battersby.—Miss Battersby's story of a Street Arab is a pleasant tale of a little London boy who gets into the hands of a beautiful lady. In spite of his patroness and her beauty Gasper succeeds in getting into trouble, but "my lady" always succeeds in getting him out again, and in the chapter which is yet unwritten it seems as if one might possibly find the youngster even more happy than when the curtain is rung down on the last scene of the book.

The Poor Fish Girl. By Barbara Temple.

Morning Light in Our Fatherland. By Mrs. E. W. Payne.

These two little books with their tasteful binding and attractive frontispieces in colours will please their young readers considerably. The first is a very pretty story of a fisher girl who reaps the reward of her intercession for another, and realises the truth of the saying "Blessed are the Merciful." The other is a story of the Early Church in England.



From "A String of Stories."

Senaniza, the faithful Kaffir. By M. E. Howard.

Alison Brand's Battle in Life. By J. Goddard.

The first of these two little books contains a well-written story of South African life, the hero of which is a faithful Kaffir who is killed by a Pondo savage in saving his master during a scrimmage between the Pondos and an English detachment. The second is a tale of a girl who gives up all—even her affianced lover—for the sake of helping her parents, and who in fighting the battle against self finds in "the Lord her strength, who teacheth her hands to war, and her fingers to fight."

A London Rose. By Emma Leslie.—A story of servant girls that may perhaps be of use to some of its readers who are in a hurry to get free from what they regard as the bondage of their lives, and in so doing succeed in obtaining liberty and a good deal of discomfort. Rose and Emma, the two heroines, thus leave their places, and before long find that there is not unmixed happiness for girls in London who are "on their own hook" as the phrase runs.

More Wayside Talks. By E. W. W.—This new series of wayside talks with boys and girls for Sunday afternoons is as good as the former. The writer is a true lover of Nature, and of Nature's God, and her words will surely help some of the young people to live braver, and happier, and better lives.

The Child's Own Magazine has now appeared for considerably over half a century, and has reached the full tide of maturity. Its coloured frontispiece, "Kiss me," is a very dainty study of mother and child, and the illustrations that adorn almost every page are excellent. The simple stories for the little readers are models of what such productions should be, and there are poems, puzzles, guessing competitions, and a host of other features that will quickly and pleasantly—aye, and profitably too—pass the otherwise dreaded hours of a wet day.

Pictures for Play Hours. Arranged and edited by the author of "The Child's Own Poetry Book."—This is a really charming picture book for children, with some of the daintiest imaginable "bits" of rustic scenery, and incidents of child life. The little stories and poems are prettily worked in, and a good deal of information is scattered up and down the pages.

The Picture World for Little People is just a picture book containing a whole gallery of charming pictures, and no letterpress beyond a descriptive line or two under each. The pictures are for the most part excellent, they are nearly two hundred in number, and they are artistically arranged.

MESSRS. J. F. SHAW & CO.'S PUBLICATIONS.

Countess Maud. By Emily S. Holt.—The stirring period of this addition to Miss Holt's long list of historical stories is that of Richard II. and Henry IV. That her practised pen makes the annals of the time interesting goes without saying, and her accuracy and happy way of depicting the manners of the fourteenth century make her book one from which young readers may derive solid instruction as well as amusement. The "changes of the world" as experienced by the heroine have more of shadow than sunshine and the whole tone of the story is somewhat sombre. That "Infinite Love, far higher and deeper than human affection, is the only imperishable thing" is the moral inculcated.

Two Sailor Lads. By Gordon Stables, M.D.—Dr. Stables is a past master in the art of writing for boys, and it is an easy prophecy to say that the adventures of the two young Crusoes which he here records will be received with unbounded satisfaction by the youngsters. The moving incidents by sea and land undergone by Frank Fielding and Fred Arundel include a storm, a swim for dear life from sharks, and a fight with savages, but they get safely away from their desert island at last, and the book ends with the marriage of Frank and charming "Toddie" Arundel.

Won at Last; or, Mrs. Briscoe's Nephews. By Agnes Giberne. — A very good story of humbler middle-class life. The fortunes of the Hazel family are re-established by the death of Mrs. Briscoe, and Miss Giberne imparts plenty of interest to the well-worn subject of the conflicting hopes of expectant legatees. Of Mrs. Briscoe's nephews, "Jack" is the hero of the book, and his love for Maimie Browne ends happily. The story is of irreproachable moral tone.

Little Queenie. By Emma Marshall. — A story of child-life sixty years ago. Queenie Beauchamp is a delightfully good little girl, and the way in which her step-mother gains her love is well told by the author. It is doubtful, however, whether it required a book to show that "the old prejudice against step-mothers is vanishing away."

A Knight Without Spurs. By Mrs. James Martin.—The spurless knight of Mrs. Martin's sympathetic story is Ted Jarvis, and it is his chivalrous conduct to a fellow London waif which gains him the title of "Judy's Champion." Dr. Nicol's kindness to poor little Ted recalls "Oliver Twist," and the doctor makes an honest man of him after he leaves the reformatory. The account of poor Judy's death is touchingly written. It is only after a severe struggle that her champion can forget her and marry a "douce Scotch lassie."

Little Miss Joy. By Emma Marshall.—"Little Miss Joy's" efforts as a "maintainer of peace" form the ground work of this short story for young children. For such "child-like souls there is quietness and assurance for ever," says Mrs. Marshall.

For Elsie's Sake. By Jennie Chappell.—"A Seaside Friendship" is the sub-title of this story, of which the scene is laid in the Isle of Wight. The poor little heroine dies, but her death draws her mother closer to heaven and she endows a cot in a children's hospital "for Elsie's sake."

Shadow-Land. By Evelyn Everett-Green.—Lindis's expedition into Shadow-land leads to some curious results, but at last she declares that it would be better to call it Sunshine-land; for you know wherever Aunt Hilda is, it always seems as if the sun were shining. Aunt Hilda is a model step-mother of the type described by Mrs. Marshall in "Little Queenie."

A Little Stray Lamb. By Margaret Haycraft.

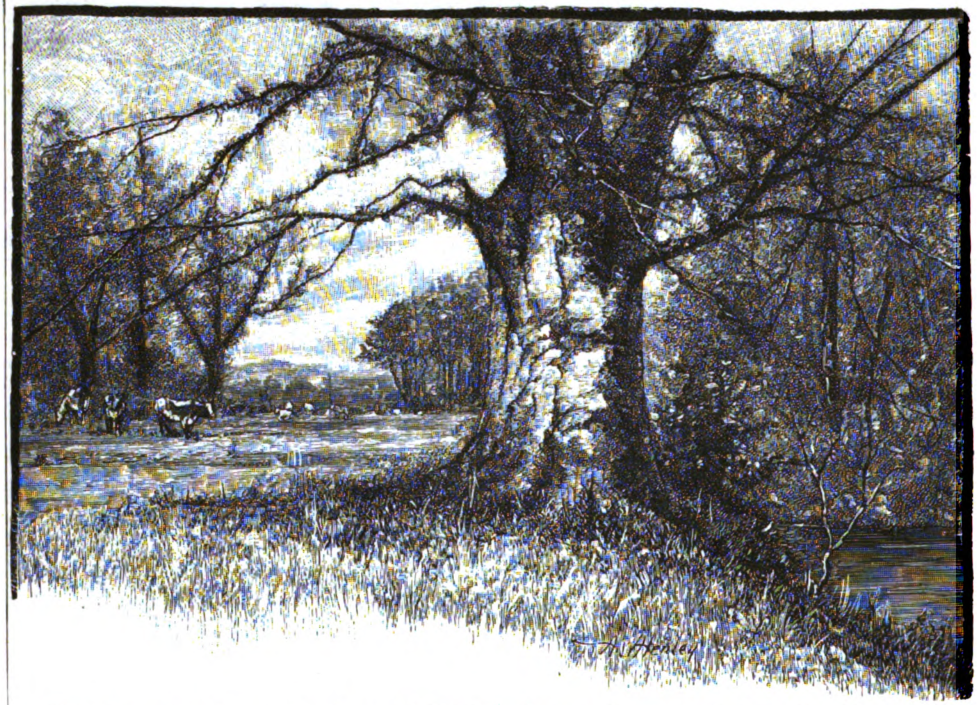
Firm Friends. By Catherine Shaw.—Well written short stories of a devotional tone, for the very young.

Our Darlings. Obviously Dr. Barnardo uses every effort to keep this popular annual up to the mark, and his success is apparent in the attractive volume just published. The stories are by authors who know exactly how to please the "darlings," and we need not say that the instructive and religious elements have not been neglected. The coloured and tinted plates and the profusion of other illustrations contribute to render the seventeenth volume a cheap and altogether satisfactory gift-book.

Under the Apple Tree. By C. H. Lyall.—A tale for the young of somewhat too serious a tone, perhaps, for a "holiday story." The illustrations are plentiful and good.

Hunters and Hunted; and *In Forest and Field.* Two volumes of "Pictures and Pages of Animal Life." The letterpress gives short but adequate accounts of all kinds of beasts and birds, from the lion and the elephant to the badger and the hare, and from the eagle and the kestrel to the chaffinch and the linnet. The appetite of most children for the study of natural history does not require whetting; if it did the stimulus might certainly be found in these books. To say that the illustrations are by Harrison Weir is to say enough in their praise. Other than juvenile critics will be charmed with the productions of a pencil as accurate and spirited as ever.

THE FIRESIDE" AND "HOME WORDS."



The annual volumes of the periodicals which emanate from "Home Words" office, are always full of readable matter, and always greatly varying in their contents. *The Fireside* is perhaps the best—at all events it is the largest—of the magazines for which the Rev. Charles Bullock is editorially responsible, and this year the annual is as good as ever. The portrait of Archbishop Plunket which forms the frontispiece is not only an eminently characteristic reproduction of the features of the prelate, but it serves also to strike the keynote of the whole, which is exactly in sympathy—probably on every point—with the views of him whose portrait is thus given. The illustrations throughout are of a very high order of merit—some of them, indeed, such as the sketch of Queen's Mead in the New Forest, which we reproduce, are really gems. The literature is also exceedingly good, as we might expect from a list of contributors including Mr. Davenport Adams, the Rev. Gordon Calthrop, Miss Agnes Giberne, Miss Edith C. Kenyon, Canon Teignmouth Shore, and a whole host of other equally well-known writers. The serial fiction by Miss Giberne and others, forms a prominent feature of the contents of the volume, but the short stories, the Sunday readings, the articles on famous places, and memorable days, the odds and ends which go to fill up the spaces between the more important items, are all as good as could be wished.

Home Words is rather different from the other in its general purpose, being intended chiefly as a parish magazine for purposes of localization, yet resembling all the publications from "Home Words" office in that it has a strong vein of distinctly religious teaching as understood by the particular school of thought in the church of which Mr. Bullock is a prominent member. The contents of the volume are arranged much upon the lines of last year's—and indeed upon the line that have characterised the magazine throughout its career. There is a great and almost infinite variety of subject and treatment, but the whole production is exceedingly readable. The papers on the English Church are still a prominent feature of the volume, and the "Church Portrait Gallery" includes several prelates who are chiefly known as sympathisers in Mr. Bullock's views upon matters ecclesiastical. There are many descriptive papers of considerable interest, and the fiction fully maintains the reputation that has been gained by the periodical during the earlier years of its existence.

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY'S NEW BOOKS.

THE parcel of new books issued by the Religious Tract Society is this year fully as large as ever, while its contents are more attractive to the reviewer than those of some of its fellows. There are as usual books for boys and books for girls, all alike excellent whether one merely regards their external appearance—binding, paper, print, and illustrations—or dives into their contents for a chapter of thrilling adventure and hairbreadth escape. The censorship over the contents has evidently been as keen as ever, and there is no fear of the young readers finding a word or suggestion that is calculated to set before him or her any but the highest moral standard. The bound volumes of the periodicals are as usual in every way admirable, and the coloured alphabets for the very little ones are models of what such productions should be.

John Tincroft, Bachelor and Benedict. By George E. Sargent.—This is a story especially suitable to young men, showing the evil that may be done by allowing themselves to drift into unsuitable marriages. True, John Tincroft is foolish, very, but so are a good many others who might easily drift into a worse mess than did Mr. Sargent's hero. The ultimate moral of the book seems to be that it is well to accustom young men to the society of ladies early in life.

In the Days of Mozart, by Lily Watson, is the story of a young musician, Rudolf von Eberstein, but through the pages of the book run a host of historic personages, Mozart himself as well as others of his contemporaries. The authoress has evidently studied her subject well, and the local colouring is most artistic.

Harold's New Creed; or, Brothers Still. By the Rev. R. G. Soans, B.A., and Edith C. Kenyon.—A tale of two brothers, or rather two lads who have grown up together as such. One is religious, the other not, and this fact serves to come between one of the two and the girl he loves. However, Harold is converted, and having adopted his new creed, marries his old love, and all ends happily.

Millicent Simonds; or, Through Cleansing Fires. By Frances Sweyn.—Poor little Millie Simonds has a thorn in her side in the shape of a rich but exceedingly unpleasant aunt, who stops her from writing to her cousin by insinuating accusations against her father, and finally accuses Millie of stealing. Happily the aunt is checkmated in the end, and the trials serve to improve Millie's character.

How to keep Healthy. By A. T. Schofield, M.D.

Italian Explorers in Africa. By Sofia Bompiani.

These two members of the new series of the "Leisure Hour Library" may be taken together. Dr. Schofield's book is, as the title indicates, a very useful series of familiar chats on the hygiene of daily life, written in a thoroughly practical style, and quite free from "faddism."

The second book is practically a reprint of some sketches which appeared in the *Leisure Hour* of 1888 and 1890, made at the suggestion of the Geographical Society. As a resident in Rome, the lady by whom they are written has special facilities for getting at official records, and she writes very pleasantly. The complete series of portraits is especially valuable.

A New Broom, by Ellen Louisa Davis, is the story of a new rector—a young enthusiast but a very human individual—and his first cure. The theme is not now done for the first time, but there is a certain freshness about the characters of some of the villagers, and the rector himself is particularly well drawn.

The Orphans of Merton Hall. By Emily Brodie.—The orphans are two babies, one born in the Hall, the other, a stranger's child, born the same night in one of the lodges. Both girls, however, are brought up at the Hall, the owners having lost their own children. Their life, with its various incidents is very prettily described, and at last the only trials are swept away, and Olive and Claire are quite happy.

Ivan and Esther. By Alice Lang.—This is a tale of Jewish life in Russia, written by a lady who has either closely studied the subject, or is personally familiar with it. Ivan and Esther have to pass through terrible trials, but are led to embrace Christianity, and though this leads to further persecution they endure bravely, and are rewarded for their faith.

Foxy Fielding's Friend. By E. A. B.—Foxy is the son of a well-to-do solicitor, his friend the son of a poor doctor, and the contrast is well illustrated by Foxy's nurse, who smacks poor little Martin Hope when her charge has fallen into the water through her own carelessness, and has been rescued by his friend. Foxy goes to seek his fortune abroad rather than live in the house which his father has wrongly obtained; Hope settles down at home. After many adventures they meet again, and all their difficulties are smoothed out.

Ivy's Dream; or, Each one his Brick. By Harriette E. Burch.—Ivy is a dear child, whose only faults are a certain love of praise and a hasty temper. This little girl has a dream, the effect of which is great, not only on herself but upon other characters in the story, which is altogether very pleasant. The brutal Hodge is rather an instructive specimen of the traditionally civil rustic.

Heroisms in Humble Life. By M. L. Séguin.—This is the issue in volume form of Mr. L. J. Séguin's charming stories from the records of the Montyon Prize of the French Academy, which formed a feature of one of the periodicals issued by the Society last year. An interesting account is given of the foundation of the prize, and the stories are told with much dramatic skill.

Heroes of the Telegraph, by J. Munro, is a book which Mr. Munro is, perhaps, of all men best qualified to write, and he has written it well. It is in a sense a sequel to his "Pioneers of Electricity," and deals with the lives and achievements of the distinguished men of science to whom we are indebted for the telegraph, telephone, and other marvels of the kind.

Retrieving the Colours. By E. L. de Butts.

Valencia; or, Led into Light. By Maggie Fearn.

Joseph's Little Coat. By the author of "A Fellow of Trinity."

These three stories are uniform in style, nicely bound in cloth, and altogether attractive. The first is a tale of a soldier who tries to do what is right but falls into sin, and drags his Master's colours in the dirt. He repents, however, and by his after-life is enabled to win back all he had lost.

The second is a story of a girl who thinks only of self and self-pleasing, but who by the example and counsel of her friend Edith D'Arcy, is "led into light," and determines to try to live for higher motives.

The last is a pleasant story of life among the town poor, and Joseph's little coat is in a sense the means of changing the father and mother into decent people after poor little Joseph himself has been taken to his Father in heaven.

Old Corney's Money. By Mrs. Carey Hobson.—Practically uniform with the last-named trio, is a story of a God-fearing old fisherman who becomes possessed of £80,000, and does with it what God wished the money to be used for. There is a delightful parrot who figures in it prominently.

The King's Cupbearer, by Mrs. O. F. Walton, is the latest addition to that lady's charming books. Its scene is laid in Shusan, the old Bible capital of Persia, and the time is that of Nehemiah. Truth and fiction are delightfully blended, and its realism is striking.

Brief counsels concerning Business, written as they are evidently by one who could justify his right to use the signature of "An old man of business," are well calculated to be of much

practical value to young men—and young women too—starting upon a commercial career. The writer evidently knows the dangers and pitfalls, and points out clearly how to avoid them.

The Pilgrim's Progress. By John Bunyan.

Ben Hadden. By W. H. G. Kingston.

Myra Sherwood's Cross. By the author of "The object in Life."

These three books are members of the admirable new shilling series that the Tract Society are issuing. Of the first-named nothing need be said, but that the edition has been carefully produced after collation with its predecessors, and that, like the others of the series, it is nicely bound and illustrated.

"Ben Hadden" is a capital adventure story for boys, with plenty of life and sea, and perils by sea and land described as one would expect from the author's name, and teaching that it is best to do right, "though the heavens fall."

"Myra Sherwood's Cross" is a story of a girl who loses her stepmother, her father, and stepsister by an accident, and is left to struggle for an orphan family and with poverty. There is a good deal of missionary life described in the course of the story, which is pleasantly told.

Alypius of Tagaste. By Mrs. Webb.

Christ and the Heroes of Heathendom. By the Rev. James Wells.

These two books, like the last-named, form part of the new shilling series. The first is one of those religio-historical tales that Mrs. Webb tells so delightfully, the hero being a heathen who is converted to Christianity. Living in the town where S. Monica and her still more famous son S. Augustine lived, one meets these characters often in the story, which is a vivid picture of life in the early Church.

The second is a new and cheaper edition of the author's lectures on this subject. The study of the heroes of heathendom is scholarly, yet so arranged as to be within the range of average minds, and may be helpful; though those who have known and loved such thinkers as the saintly Epictetus and such works as his *Encheiridion* have not always found the study lead them to Christianity.

Indoor Recreations. Edited by G. A. Hutchison.—A new edition of this popular old cyclopædia of indoor games and recreations for boys, has just been issued, but scarcely needs a word of commendation. The revision has, however, been carefully done, and several new features have been added, descriptive for the most part of new games. The illustrations are as good as ever, and the whole forms a volume that should be acceptable to any healthily constituted boy.

The Tract Magazine is well to the fore again this year, and well maintains its old reputation as a high-class serious periodical. The literature is excellent of its kind, notably the short stories and the biographies. The illustrations also are well done, and of course the religious tone is carefully perserved throughout the volume.

Friendly Greetings, like the other just named, is an old favourite of a lighter tone, but still with a considerable under-current of direct religious teaching. The stories, sketches and readings are admirable, while the illustrations in black and white, and in colours, that adorn almost every page of the handsome volume, are far and away beyond average merit.

The Cottager and Artisan, which makes its annual appearance in volume form once more, is full of excellent reading matter for every member of the families for whom it is specially intended, while its pictures are admirable.

Crushed, yet Conquering. By the Author of "The Spanish Brothers."—This handsomely bound and illustrated tale is "A Story of Constance and Bohemia"—in other words, the story of John Huss. Of Huss himself the author has been careful to say nothing but what history has supplied, and Gerson has been treated with a like respect. His opinions are taken from his own writings, and the circumstances of his death are historically accurate. The instances of martyrdom, the story of the burgomaster's daughter, of Leimeritz, and that of Pasta Wenzel are also taken from authentic sources, and the local colouring has been checked by numerous references to Bohemian records. All these and much more have been worked up lovingly and carefully into narrative form, and the result is an altogether fascinating tale.

Jeanette, by Lucy Taylor, has a curious second title, "The Charity that Encourages a Multitude of Sins." It is, however, a very clever story, showing the evil that is done by indiscriminate charity, and exposing the frauds perpetrated by the undeserving poor. The pictures of slum life are wonderfully well drawn, and such characters as Mrs. Jartles and Clem may be met with only too easily by anybody who chooses to take up such work as district visiting.

Fir Tree Farm, by Evelyn Everett Green, deals with the fortunes of Judith Davenant, the eldest daughter of Farmer Martin, of Fir Tree Farm, and his acknowledged successor, and of her foster sister Lady Dorothy Leslie. Poor Jack Davenant, Judith's husband, takes to racing, as many of his family have done before him, gets into bad company, stakes all his savings on his horse—and loses. Elsie, her sister, in the same bad company, gets badly married, and things go wrong at the farm. Yet when at their worst, the good angel of the tale steps in, and it is partly through her that all comes right in the end. The women of the story are charmingly drawn, and Jack Davenant and Jock his son are both fine manly fellows, in spite of the former's fall.

Stella's Pathway. By Ellen Louisa Davis.—The moral of this tale is indicated at the outset by the lines of the late Miss Havergal, beginning "Great is the peril or toil if the glory or gain be great." Stella is a young and beautiful girl, who settles down with her mother in a west-country cottage, and proceeds to regenerate the village so far as intemperance goes. Even the rector is won over by the handsome young evangelist. She has many and many a hard fight, even in quarters where one would have supposed that religion had nothing to fear, but she conquers in the end—and marries.

The Wire and the Wave, by J. Munro, is a tale of the submarine telegraph, by a writer who is well known as an authority on every subject connected with telegraphy, and who, moreover, has an exceedingly pleasant way of telling a story. Charlie Seaforth, his hero, takes to cable laying as a profession, and being sent abroad on matters connected with the work, he meets with some very marvellous experiences. The book apart from this contains a good deal of information pleasantly given, that will be new to most readers.

Our Home in the Silver West, is one of Dr. Gordon Stables's contributions to literature this year—one of those rattling tales of adventure that we have learned to expect from his skilled pen. Here we start with a blood feud between two Highland clans, and a piece of treachery that leads the remnant of the M'Coilas to seek a new home in the Far West. There they have a whole series of startling adventures, only at last to return home, to regain their own, and to heal the blood feud by a double wedding.

Our Bessie. By Rosa Nouchette Carey.—Bessie Lambert is the daughter of a country doctor, who meets the daughter of an old friend of her parents while snowed up in a train. From this small beginning comes a visit to our Bessie's home and a return visit to the home of her friend, Edna Sefton. Introductions to brothers follow, and after a series of pleasantly described incidents the book ends with a double wedding.

Dan's Little Girl. By Jessie Armstrong.—A charming story for girls, showing the influence for good that even a little girl may possess. Poor little orphaned Lily is refused shelter by her uncle, and the big sailor cousin Dan takes her to live with him. How the two get on together is what the authoress has to tell, and how Dan's little girl works a change for the better all round.

Aldyth's Inheritance. By Eglanton Thorne.—Aldyth Lorraine, the heroine of this well-written tale for girls, has a mother, stepfather, and half brothers at the other side of the world, but has been brought up from babyhood by her aunt in England. With her is also brought up her cousin Guy, and the question strikes the reader early, who will be old Stephen Lorraine's heir, and will the cousins marry and share the heritage. Aldyth's mother figures in the story for awhile, and in the end the girl loses both her mother and her heritage, but finds a charming husband in John Glynne. The characters of the different personages in the story are cleverly described, and Aldyth herself is a delightful girl.

Averil. By Rosa Nouchette Carey.—This is another of this writer's pleasant stories for girls. Her heroine—a poor little stunted woman of twenty-seven—is a new variety, and in spite of physical defects is very charming. She offers a home to her cousin Annette Ramsay, left an orphan in France, and of course the offer is accepted and leads to various unexpected incidents. Averil is the good angel of the home throughout, and if there is matter for regret, it is that her only reward is that of making others happy.

The Child's Companion, and *Our Little Dots*, are as excellent for the younger members of the home circle as are the periodicals already noticed for their seniors. More one could not say; the serial and short stories in the former, are really excellent from the literary point of view, and appeal to the intelligence of the young readers. The latter is of course for "our little dots" only, who will revel in the large type and bright pictures. Both are charmingly bound.

Half True Tales. By C. H. Augurs, illustrated by C. J. Taylor. (Brentano.)—Here are a number of American tales, told in the American language, but easily within the comprehension of the average English reader. In the article of short stories our kinsmen across the water are at present unrivalled. They have the knack of creating amusement out of some happy idea, and the idea is often of the slenderest and most elementary kind. In dressing it out so as to constitute a complete story in itself, lies the narrator's art. The collection of six-minutes' readings of which the volume consists is good throughout. Particularly we may mention the domestic comedy entitled "The Finding of the Finn," and the literary experiences of "Mr. Stubb Penn," the humorist. "Cheviot's downward career" is amazingly funny, and the solution of the tragic mystery related in a "Night at the Navy Stores," has also its ridiculous aspect.

Marjorie and Her Papa. By H. Fletcher. (Mr. T. Fisher Unwin.)—This book, though American—perhaps, because American, for American writers seem to have a special faculty for dealing with children, and meeting their particular needs—is exactly one of those books that children love. It is supposed to be written conjointly by Marjorie and her papa, and tells of Marjorie's tea-party and other matters. Marjorie, by the way, calls her paternal relative "Jack," with a spice of irreverence, perhaps, but certainly, with a strong spice of human nature, and "Jack" and Marjorie between them have turned out a work which is altogether delightful. Mr. Fletcher—whom one may, possibly, take to play the rôle of "Papa"—has inspired the illustrations, which Mr. R. B. Birch has carried into the region of fact in a manner which is at once artistic and natural. Indeed one wishes that Marjorie and her Papa would write stories, and "make pictures" for them more frequently.

THE CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS.

THE Christmas books issued this year by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge are very much like those of last year in two respects—they are well written by writers of tried excellence, and they are admirably produced. The progressive tendency that has marked them of late years is more distinctly evident this year; the teaching is as thoroughly and comprehensively religious as ever, but there is no longer any apparent nervousness about calling things by their proper names. As to the get-up of the books no word of praise is necessary. Whether one examines paper, print, binding, or illustrations, there are always noticeable evidences of care, and even the smallest works have been brought out with the most scrupulous attention to finish.

Palestine Illustrated.—This is the first part (series 1) of a collection of views in the Holy Land, obtained by Messrs. F. Thévoz & Co. of Geneva, and reproduced by photogravure. It contains ten views of Jaffa, the road to Jerusalem, Sharon Plain, and Ramleh, and the head of a fellah sheikh, exquisitely printed, with a softness and breadth of tone that are really remarkable. The descriptive letterpress by M. P. Bridel is just what it should be—clear and concise enough for those who merely wish to use it as a description of the plates, yet full enough to serve as a guide to those who want further information. Readers may be reminded of the great difficulty of obtaining such photographs, owing to the bigotry of the Mohammedan natives, who —even when in authority—offer regular opposition to artists on account of the teaching of the Koran with regard to works of art.

A Local Lion. By Austin Clare.—The motto of this story of "a false estimate," sufficiently discloses its author's purpose: "I say . . . to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think." The love of Andrew Elliot, "the local lion," for Agnes Hind, is an old theme newly treated, and the characters of the musical north-country pilot, and his quiet serious-minded mistress, are almost new to us. The descriptive work, which forms a most important feature of the book, is especially noteworthy—it is accurate and not overdrawn. There is moreover a considerable amount of very definite and decided Church teaching in the book.

The Ouse, by A. J. Foster, M.A., is another of those charming guides which the scholarly vicar of Wootton from time to time produces. Mr. Foster is more of a companion than a guide—he not only knows the road he travels with his readers, but he gossips pleasantly all the time, always full of exactly the information wanted, yet never wearisome, never didactic, never—as most guides are—a mere clever bit of scientific machinery, that once wound up is bound to run down before it stops. The guide and companion is an excellent artist also, and has a happy knack of jotting down the most picturesque "bits" of scenery as he goes along.

To the West. By George Manville Fenn.—Mr. Manville Fenn is always at his best in the stories for boys, that form such an important feature in Christmas book-lists. Mayne Gordon and Esau Dean, the two heroes of the present story, escape from a tyrannical master in the City, who thrashes them into a despairing rage and then prosecutes them for assault. After a good deal of trouble, the lads arrive safely in British Columbia. On the way out they pick up a one-eyed prospector, who proves their good angel in countless hair-breadth adventures, and finally—after trying unsuccessfully at gold-digging—the whole party become comfortable and prosperous settlers.

Two Friends and a fiddle. By Helen Shipton. —This is another capital story for boys, and like the last, concerns the fortunes of two heroes, Hugh Calladine, a clever musical collier lad, and his chosen friend Morris Riley. A brutal over-looker in the mine meets with an accident, and this—for a certain reason—leads Hugh to seek a new life in a circus, where he finds old friends in the manager and the manager's niece, while Morris takes to the sea. There is plenty of adventure of all kinds in the book, and some excellent descriptions of the colliers and their lives, and all ends as happily as need be desired.

The Ice Prison. By F. Frankfort Moore.—The hero of this stirring tale is a young Irish landlord who is marked down for vengeance by the Land League, and who after landing supplies to a boycotted family from his yacht, is carried out to sea and wrecked. He is however picked up by a vessel bound to Callao, only to be imprisoned with the crew among icebergs. There a derelict brig is picked up and safely navigated by the hero and a part of the crew to Callao; and the plucky young Irishman returns to find his tenantry repenting, and ready to welcome him as one restored from the dead.

Dorothy Dymoke, by Edward Gilliot, M.A., is a pleasant story, founded upon history, and deals very largely with the incidents connected with the Pilgrimage of Grace — or rather with the Lincolnshire episode of the pilgrimage. Mr. Gilliot has drawn his facts from one of the recently issued volumes emanating from the Public Record Office, and has even extracted some of his dialogue thence, so that the local colouring may be regarded as quite unusually trustworthy. The book has an object—that of correcting public opinion as to the moral state of the religious houses in the time of Henry VIII., and of evoking the reader's sympathy for the heroine's enthusiasm.

Jan. By Mrs. Newman.—Another tale of fisher life, but this time the scenery is that of the South Coast of England, with the unwritten laws, and customs of which the author is evidently familiar. The chief iuterest of the story is centred in its heroine, Janet Cairne—Jan, as she is called—and her unswerving constancy towards her brother. Even when Dan is wrongfully sent to prison, and her own lover refuses to admit his innocence, Jan stands firm, and her trust is rewarded. Dan is at last triumphantly vindicated, and his sister is wedded to a far better man than the faithless Roger Mace.

The North Sea Shore. By Rothael Kirk.—A story of fisher life, the scene of which is laid on the Eastern shores of Scotland, with some powerful descriptions of the fisher folk and their perilous calling. The loves of Mary Skinner and the hero of the tale—William Gudbrand, or Gweebran — run pleasantly through the book, and old Skinner is a good bit of character study. The enmity of the two households is well brought out, and the storms through which the lovers pass end in a happy though somewhat saddened calm.

Ten Minutes' Tales for Every Sunday. By Frances Harriett Wood.—The authoress gives brief stories for every Sunday from Advent to the fifth Sunday after Easter. The stories are exceedingly varied in character, some of the best being Swedish tales, almost of the Hans Andersen type. All are so good that one wishes the series prolonged to cover the latter half of the Church's year.

A High Resolve. By Cecilia Selby Lowndes. —A story for girls, pleasantly illustrative of the truth that "Who sweeps a room as in God's sight makes that and the action fine." Maisie Armstrong longs to do something great for God, while her friend remembers that Fr. Faber said that "The secret of love is to be always doing things for God, and not to mind because they are such very little ones." Realising her fault, Maisie takes "a high resolve," with what result the authoress tells.

Polly. By Robina F. Hardy.—Polly, "who was 'nobody's child,'" as the title page tells us, is a little child stranded in a Yorkshire town at Christmastide by a railway accident which deprives her of her custodian, "Unky Dick." Polly finds a home with a retired schoolmistress—a dear little old maiden lady —and there she stays until, two years later, it turns out that the dead guardian, poor old Dick, is the brother of the Squire of Buxham, and that little Polly is that gentleman's grandchild. The quiet gossipy life of the country town is pleasantly suggested, and the little schoolmistress is ultimately rewarded with the hand of the Squire himself.

Aunt Lily's Motto. By Lady Dunboyne.—Aunt Lily's Motto is one of Kingsley's: "Do the work that's nearest" which she tries to impress upon the minds of the motherless children to whom she acts as guide, philosopher and friend, when she herself is leaving them for India. Pluckily and well the young people try to carry out the spirit of the motto, and their efforts are well repaid.

Mrs. Glen's Daughter. By F. E. Reade.—Mrs. Glen is a reformed drunkard, a widow, whose daughter has spent the four years between twelve and sixteen in a training home, and as the story opens is going to her new place. The girl, unluckily, is in no way reformed, and living with her mother in the region of laundries at Notting Hill, falls into bad ways and bad company, only to be saved just in time.

Life and Times of Bishop William Morgan. By the Rev. W. Hughes.

A Life of Love and Duty. Edited by Mrs. Goodenough.

Bishop Morgan was head of the See of Llandaff, and afterwards of St. Asaph in the days of King Henry VIII. The records of his life are slender, but the author has managed to collect from the Record Office, Lambeth Palace, and elsewhere a good many interesting particulars. As the translator of the Bible into Welsh, Bishop Morgan deserved the honour of a biography, and the work could hardly have been placed in better hands than those of his fellow countryman, who has already written on the subject in his own tongue.

Mrs. Goodenough's book is a very pleasant memoir of the gallant commodore, her husband. Few men have served their God and their country with the zeal and devotion that marked every one of the many years he spent in the service, and his pathetic death from a savage's arrow was a terrible loss to his ship.

Miss Pussie. By Maud Carew. — This, though a short story, is one of the most fascinating imaginable, owing to the witchery of "Miss Pussie," who comes to a certain household as holiday governess, and transforms a number of children into quite delightful specimens of half-grown humanity. The process, moreover, is not miraculous, and "Miss Pussie" might teach many a valuable lesson to adults and juveniles who are not members of the Ashton family.

Talks to Girls. By One of Themselves.—One would like to know who this writer—who is "little more than a girl" herself—is, so charmingly direct and practical are her chats with her readers on the difficulties, duties, and joys of a girl's life. The writer is full of the spirit of practical religion—the religion of George Herbert and Charles Kingsley—and evidently knows in the fullest sense what she is talking about.

Charlie. By Alice F. Jackson.

True to Herself. By Mary E. Shipley.

Dorothy. And other Stories. By Hope Carlyon.

The first of these three attractive little books is the story of a very little boy—very little indeed—who is the first charge of a girl of seventeen, fresh from an orphanage. Bessie tries hard to prove worthy of the trust reposed in her by Charlie's own mother, and it is through her chiefly that Charlie's stepmother learns to love him.

The second book is a charming tale for girls, the heroine of which is a young servant who is determined to be true to herself. Her two young mistresses are cleverly sketched, and there is some pretty descriptive work.

The last contains a trio of short stories for children, the third being the story of the famous "White Doe of Rylstone" immortalized by Wordsworth. All three are pleasantly written, and Dorothy, the soldier's daughter who is brave "for her father's sake," is a charming child.

Peck. By the Rev. W. J. Bettison, M.A.

Tweedledum and Tweedledee. By Mary Roding.

Isaac Beach, Signalman. By Edith M. Dauglish.

"Peck" is a London street arab, from one of the slums that abound in aristocratic Kensington, a district as fashionable for slum-heroes now as the East End used to be. Somebody gives him half-a-sovereign in mistake for a sixpence, and Peck, like an honest little boy, returns it. He is rewarded by being well looked after by his new friend, and ends by becoming a respectable member of society.

"Tweedledum and Tweedledee" is the story of two little twin boys, who come at the end of a long family of girls. The story deals with the adventures of the youngsters during a holiday at Bournemouth, and with the history of their innumerable escapades.

The third of these charming tales deals with an agnostic signalman, who is converted to faith by the sudden recovery of his child, as he had been driven into unbelief by the sin of his wife. The story is simply told, but Beach is powerfully sketched.

The Perfect Heart. By Frances M. Wilbraham.

Her First Place. By Jessie M. Saxby.

An Old Maid's Child. By F. C. Playne.

These three books are rather smaller than the last-named trio. The first is a tale of the time of the French Revolution, with the tragic history of which the episodes are chiefly concerned. The local colouring is good, and the Royalist hero is an admirable specimen of a French aristocrat.

The second is a slighter tale of a Scottish lassie in her first place. Her young mistress is a beautiful coquette, who is brought to reason and sense chiefly through the maid's instrumentality.

Chris—the hero of the third—is a little boy who has been brought up by his great aunt. Lonely at first, he finds two child friends—a boy and a girl—and the three have several adventures together, which are well told.

The Children's Books, strictly so called—the quarto volumes attractive to children by reason of their very covers—are still as ever a strong point with the society. First among these in every way is—

Lucky Ducks. And other tales. By Mrs. Molesworth.—This is in all respects charming, whether in reference to prose or illustration. Dora, her ducks and their pond, come before the reader with a vividness that is one of the great charms of Mrs. Molesworth's style; and the same remark applies to the other stories included in the volume. The illustrations supplied by Mr. W. J. Morgan are in every respect admirable, and fit the tales exactly.

A Broken Vase. And other tales.

Little Santa Claus. And other stories.

These are two charming little books of short stories by Mrs. Sitwell, Mr. F. Scarlett Porter, Mr. Ascott R. Hope, and other well-known writers. The tales are for quite young children, and are simply written; and the illustrations, some in colours and some in black and white, will delight the hearts of the young readers.

The Garland Alphabet, by Florence Lockyer, is a new floral alphabet, printed in colours, with exceedingly pretty designs in flowers illustrating each letter, and also some scene in child-life, arranged so as to impress some word beginning with each letter in succession upon the memory of the learner. Thus "A" has its apple-blossom, a child angling, and so on.

The bound volumes of the Society's magazines are, as usual, excellent. The *Dawn of Day* is full of interesting fiction, and articles upon all varieties of subjects. The practical articles are especially good, and also those descriptive of scenery and churches at home and abroad. The greatest care has evidently been spent upon the illustrations, as well as upon the literature, and the whole volume is most readable. The *Child's Pictorial* is well maintaining the high reputation secured by its earlier volumes, and appeals with great force to children of the middle and upper classes. The young readers are treated with a respect for their intelligence that used to be wholly lacking in such productions, and the same care is given to details as is bestowed upon magazines ostensibly intended for adults.

MESSRS. ROUTLEDGE & SONS' PUBLICATIONS.

Mother Goose's Nursery Rhymes; and *Fairy Tales.*—The illustrations are almost the best part of this most comprehensive collection of nursery rhymes and fairy tales for the younger members of the family circle. Mr. Harrison Weir, Mr. John Tenniel, Mr. Walter Crane, and Sir John Gilbert, are all among the artists whose services have been requisitioned, and, having said this, it is quite unnecessary for us to further commend the pictures to our readers. They are to be found, some in black and white, and some in colours, on almost every page. The tales include all the old popular favourites, and the volume, as a whole, is a perfect treasure-house of literature for little ones.

The Pilgrim's Progress. By John Bunyan. With a memoir and notes by George Offor.—The masterpiece of the Bedford tinker has been so often reprinted in every conceivable variety of form, that it is difficult now to find new phrases in which to welcome its successive re-appearances. The present edition is beautifully printed, and the coloured plates, and the other illustrations, by Mr. J. D. Watson, are alike admirable in design and execution. The memoir supplied by Mr. Offor is written in exceedingly readable fashion, and is evidently the result of a close and comprehensive study of the subject, while the brief explanatory notes are just what is wanted for a popular edition.

Moral Tales. By Maria Edgeworth.—It is perhaps difficult for the present generation to exactly realise Miss Edgeworth's place in the literature of the nation, yet it may be said with perfect safety that no writer exercised a wider or more salutary influence than she did at the time when the new era in children's literature was dawning. The moral tales, like Watts's Hymns, or the Metrical Psalms, were the precursors of better things than themselves, which would never have existed had not these examples preceded them. Even now the tales are interesting, and in them are embodied the purest principles of moral rectitude, clothed in the attractive garb of truth and virtue.

Popular Tales, by Maria Edgeworth, form the companion volume to the last named. It is some time since an edition of them has been laid before the public, and the present republication needs no apology. Some living now are old enough to remember the delight with which they first read these tales, which, while arresting the attention and captivating the fancy of the young readers by their brilliancy and elegance, at the same time operated powerfully for good by diffusing a general taste for moral truth. The headings which were prefixed to each tale by the novelist's father, have very properly been restored in this edition.

Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. Translated by Alexander Pope. Edited by the Rev. H. F. Cary, M.A. With an introduction by Sir John Lubbock. — This edition of Pope's "Iliad" and "Odyssey" forms the twelfth in Messrs. Routledge & Sons' issue of "Sir John Lubbock's Best Hundred Books." Perhaps the most interesting part of the present edition is the preface by Sir John Lubbock himself, who strenuously defends Helen from the charge of improper conduct so generally brought against her; and declares that she was merely the victim of a marriage by capture—a form recognised as valid in all early society. His argument is of course thoughtful and scholarly, and to many will be convincing.

Early Papers and Some Memories. By Henry Morley.—These early papers by Professor Henry Morley will be read with no little interest by a wide circle of readers. Those included in the present volume belong to the decade between 1850 and 1860, most of them to 1850—1; though some of the most interesting are reprinted from *Household Words* for the years between 1850 and 1857; and in an appendix are some small odds and ends collected from sources dating back to the forties. The most important series are the papers "How to Make Home Unhealthy," which might usefully form part of our compulsory education system.

The Illustrated Book of Patience Games. By Professor Hoffmann.—Professor Hoffmann is such an authority on all matters connected with card playing and card tricks, that—as in ancient Rome—when he lays down a law there is no more to be said. This book of patience games is a translation from the German, but Professor Hoffmann, in translating, has edited where he found it necessary; and the volume now forms probably the most complete and trustworthy guide upon the subject extant in the English language.

R. Caldecott's Picture Book.—This delightful little book contains four items: "The Diverting History of John Gilpin," "The House that Jack Built," "The Babes in the Wood," and "An Elegy on the Death of a Mad Dog." The text is therefore familiar, and the beauty and value of the book lies in the exquisitely humorous and dainty pictures, many of which are printed in colours. Perhaps the gem of the whole is to be found in the illustrations of Goldsmith's famous elegy—the portrait of the dog himself, for instance.

Kate Greenaway's Almanack for 1892.—It would be hardly polite to reckon up the number of years that have passed since the first of these tiny volumes appeared. It is long enough ago for the series to have established itself very firmly in popular favour. This latest addition to the series is as dainty as ever, and as quaint.

Routledge's Book of the Circus.—This picture story-book for children, will assuredly delight the hearts of its young owners. The illustrations by M. Jules Garnier pourtray with singular vividness the inner as well as the outer life of the circus, and the stories of themselves, and their experiences by equilibrists, clowns, rope-dancers, riders, and the rest (there is one by a circus horse!) are charmingly written.

The Pet Animals Picture Book.—This is a picture book for the very little ones, with twenty-four pages of beautiful coloured plates. As the title suggests, the principal part of these is devoted to pet animals, but there are also a picture alphabet, an illustrated account of "Oranges and Lemons" and some circus pictures.

Little Wide-Awake. Edited by Mrs. Sale Barker.—This illustrated magazine for the little ones makes its appearance once again in the form of a handsome volume, gay in green and gold, with a delightful coloured frontispiece, and countless illustrations by artists of the first rank. The stories in the volume are as good as ever—brightly written, with as much care as in periodicals for larger readers—and sufficiently varied to suit all tastes and ages. For very little ones, there are all kinds of special features, such as stories in large type with plenty of bright pictures. The puzzle pages are as good as ever, and the editor's corner is full of delightful chats.

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Heroes of Our Day; or Recent Winners of the Victoria Cross. By Walter Richards. With eight illustrations by Harry Payne. (J. S. Virtue & Co.)—Nothing in the way of military distinction, surpasses the Victoria Cross in the Englishman's mind. The inscription "For Valour" is no idle legend. It means that the man who has gained this particular decoration has in a moment of extreme peril ventured his life with unmistakable bravery for his country's, or, what is the same, for a comrade's sake. Though England has been happily free from European war for something close on to forty years, we have had as a nation certain notable campaigns that have produced their harvests of glory. To go back as far as 1857, one may point to the present General Officer in command of the Aldershot District, Sir Evelyn Wood, who won his Victoria Cross in the Indian Mutiny. It is a descent in the scale, not of bravery but of birth, to note a seaman of H.M.S. Niger, William Odgers, gunner, who achieved a similar distinction in the last New Zealand War of 1860. The incident is, by the way, the subject selected for pictorial representation upon the cover of this volume. Other and more recent examples of conspicuous valour are furnished by the names of Lieutenant Chard at Rorke's Drift in 1879, of Captain Leach in the Afghan Campaign of 1878-80, of Private Wassall at the disaster of Isandhlwana, and of gunner Albert Smith who won his cross at Abu-Klea in 1885. Mr. Richards has succeeded in spite of himself, for the chronicle of British valour that he had to tell is but ill-related. Dates are rarely given, and the various campaigns referred to are mixed up in extraordinary confusion. However, Christmas is the time of peace and goodwill, and therefore we say no more.

The Afghan Wars, 1839-42 *and* 1878-80. By Archibald Forbes. With Portraits and Plans. (Seeley & Co.)—Afghanistan is and is likely to be the sore on the shoulder of British India. With the advanced and advancing proximity of Russia on the one hand, ever serving as an equipoise against British interests, added to the constant dynastic disturbances of the country and the flux and reflux of Afghan relations with ourselves, it was impossible to disregard the question. Yet active interference in the affairs of the Ameer has been from the first disastrous to the English who meddled with it. That sagest of advisers, the great Duke of Wellington, long ago uttered the prudent warning, that if we once crossed the Indus to settle the Afghan question, we should have to make the same journey once every twelvemonths. The two wars so ably described in these pages by Mr. Archibald Forbes, are separated by an interval of very nearly forty years. It was in 1838 that Lord Auckland proclaimed the fateful war that, attended at the outset by apparent triumph, ended in the awful catastrophe and destruction of the British expedition in 1841-42. The disaster was immediately retrieved by General Pollock, but the fact remained, and the experience gained by this ill-omened attack taught the wisdom of leaving Afghanistan to manage its own affairs unaided and unadvised. In 1879 occurred the Cavagnari affair, followed first by the retaliating acts of Sir F. Roberts, and then in 1880 by the defeat of our troops under Brigadier-General Burrows. A second vengeance was required, producing the celebrated march of Roberts from Cabul to Candahar, the total defeat of Ayub Khan, and the evacuation of the country in April, 1881. Since then we have had no hostilities with the Ameer, and it is sincerely to be hoped that we may keep clear of conflict for some time to come.

Paris in Old and Present Times. By P. G. Hamerton, Officier de l'Académie, with many illustrations. New edition. (Seeley & Co.)—Paris has been so completely transmogrified within the last half-century and even less, that were some aged convict to return from Cayenne and revisit the metropolis he would hardly recognize the place. Whole streets of ancient dwellings, several churches, and a host of buildings of mediæval date have vanished under the transforming wand of Napoleon III. and in the improvements continued by the Republic. The sanitary conditions of the city and the facilities for traffic circulation have doubtless benefited by the change, but the artistic, antiquarian, and picturesque interests have by so much become the sufferers. Mr. Hamerton, who is to be congratulated on the publication of a new edition of his book, desired to furnish visitors to Paris with some guide to these vanished and vanishing relics of past history. If the buildings are gone the sites may be pointed out, or the remains of the ancient structure may be discerned in the new edifice with which they are incorporated. Such veritable memorials of the Middle Age as Notre Dame, the Sainte Chapelle, the Cluny Hotel and others still happily remain, and to these Mr. Hamerton has devoted the space and attention which they deserve. Other portions of the volume are occupied with treating of various historical buildings both past and present, tracing their progress from the Gothic age to the Renaissance, and onwards to their later modifications in modern times. The illustrations, amounting to upwards of seventy, are excellent, and make the work quite a picture book.

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Jasmin: Barber, Poet, Philanthropist. By Samuel Smiles, LL.D. (John Murray.)—It seems to matter very little who is the hero of one of Dr. Smiles's books, for the author always contrives to invest him with most interesting attributes; and to tell the story of his life in so delightful a way, that having once begun the reader is bound to go on to the end. Jasmin, the hero of his latest volume, is known but to a few English readers, and to those chiefly by Longfellow's translation of his "Blind Girl of Castel-Cuillé," perhaps his best poem. But in the South of France his memory occupies the same place in the heart of the people that that of Burns fills in Southern Scotland; and the shop where he carried on the trade of a barber is still pointed out to visitors as quite a show-place. Of his philanthropy the most singular tales are told; and it is stated that he gave to public charities at least half-a-million francs gained by his recitations. Dr. Smiles deserves much thanks for introducing Jasmin to English readers, and no less for his translations of some of the poet's best work in the appendix.

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The Cloud of Witness.—Mr. H. Frowde, of the Oxford University Press Warehouse, has just issued under this title an exquisitely printed little volume by the Hon. Mrs. Lyttelton Gell. The authoress describes her work as "a daily sequence of great thoughts from many minds following the Christian seasons." In other words she takes a thought prominently suggested in the Sunday gospels or lessons, and adds about half a dozen short poetical quotations bearing on this thought from various writers for every day of the week following. The great festivals of the Church are similarly treated, and a page (in some cases more than one) is given up also to thoughts upon Holy Communion, Holy Baptism, and the other Sacramental ordinances. The devotional spirit in which the whole work is conceived is admirable, and the book has received the imprimature of the Head of the Anglican Communion, who in his brief preface strongly commends it. The selections are from a marvellously wide range of authors, and a good idea is the addition of a full subject index, thus making the volume a valuable storehouse of quotations. A few pages of manuscript paper are ruled off at the end of the volume for the commemoration of special events in the life of the owner, and for the commemoration of the departed members of his family. Of the general get-up of the book it is impossible to say too much. It is printed in two forms, one on ordinary paper, and the other on the now famous Oxford India paper. The latter edition, though containing 576 pages, is exceedingly thin by reason of the quality of the paper; both are obtainable in various handsome bindings as well as in cloth, and contain a charming frontispiece after Holman Hunt's "Light of the World." Red border lines surround the pages, and the texts at the head of each page and the ornaments between the quotations are also in red.

Maiwa's Revenge; or, The War of the Little Hand. By H. Rider Haggard. With illustrations. (Longmans, Green & Co.)—Anyone who is smitten with Mr. Haggard's genius will find ample value in this reprint of his famous story. To be able to obtain "Maiwa's Revenge" for the ridiculous price of one shilling of the realm sterling is indeed something to be aware of. Here is the redoubtable Allan Quatermain's narrative, as recited before Sir H. Curtis and Capt. Good, adorned moreover with woodcuts of the most thrilling order—all for the price of twelvepence!

The Retreat of the Ten Thousand. By Professor C. Witt. Translated from the German by Frances Younghusband, with preface by H. G. Dakyns, M.A. (Longmans & Co.)—There are some books that never lose their charm, and that, indeed, have long ago secured immortality. Of these the Anabasis of Xenophon is a notable instance. In his own day, and no doubt in his own mind, his claim to distinction lay in the tried ability of the soldier, and in the masterly "Retreat" of the Greek allies through Armenia after the defeat at Cunaxa. But the history of that piece of generalship has surpassed in fame the feat itself, and is Xenophon's undoubted masterpiece. Professor Witt's version of the story is based upon the original Greek, without being in any sense a mere translation. It reads fluently enough, and Miss Younghusband's English is all that can be desired. The illustrations are from Perrot and Chipiez, with others taken from Baumeister's Dictionary and from the British Museum. There is also a map.

About Ceylon and Borneo. By W. J. Clutterbuck. With 47 illustrations, and two maps. (Longmans and Co.)—No traveller writes more to the point than Mr. Clutterbuck. He sees everything, and he tells what he sees with amazing lucidity and no little humour. The books of the kind, of which he is author or joint-author, are fully as amusing as the most entertaining novel. At Ceylon, Mr. Clutterbuck revived reminiscences of a visit of fourteen years previous, and found things considerably improved from the tourist's point of view. In 1877 the principal hotel at Colombo was anything but desirable. "The beds were hard, the mosquito curtains were holey, and the mosquitoes ravenous. The servants were uncivil, all Christians, and all therefore thieves." The "therefore" in this latter sentence is curious, but other passages in the book confirm the same remark, and do not tend to an encouraging opinion of Indian and Ceylon missionary operations. The visit to Borneo commands more attention, in consequence of the less familiar knowledge that we have of the country. Brunei, Labuan and Sandakan were the principal spots touched at, the beauty of Labuan and its "tropical condition of tree-y luxuriance" striking the author more favourably than any other place in his travels. The "lake dwellings" of Brunei—the whole town is built on piles—are the residence of an easy going old Sultan, its sovereign and lord; but the State seems likely to be absorbed by the neighbouring British Territories of Sarawak, and the Borneo Company. There are a quantity of illustrations from photographs, besides some more humorous sketches of the author's own designing.

The New Empire. By O. A. Howland, of Osgoode Hall, Barrister-at-Law. (Edward Arnold.)—Mr. Howland's apologies for adding another volume to the already existing literature upon the question of Canada are, we respectfully submit, quite unnecessary. He writes and expresses himself well, and he has plenty to say. His opinions are none the less valuable because they run counter to the views upon this particular subject of so distinguished a thinker and writer as Mr. Goldwin Smith. While the one writer is for doing away with International divisions, the other is for minimising their effect, believing, as he does, that the cause of Freedom is best served by preserving and recognising national individuality. As Mr. Howland reminds us, the present year is the centenary of the foundation of the Province of Upper Canada. The old order changes, and leaves us face to face with a new Canada, or, as the author prefers to call it, a New Empire. What is to be this New Empire's future policy; what are to be its relations to the mother country on the one hand, and towards the great neighbouring Republic on the other? These are the questions which the author sets himself to examine and discuss; not omitting, of course, to take into account the cases of other colonies, and the prospects of confederation. The spirit in which Mr. Howland treats his subject may be guessed. "Prophets of disunion (he says) have always been busy with the Empire's fate. Time has, however, continually defeated their predictions. Decade follows decade, finding the constituent provinces still closing, unbroken, around the ancient standard of their loyalty; leaving kingdoms and dominions still submitting themselves manfully to the reasonable discipline of their Great Alliance."

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FIGARO ILLUSTRÉ.—Our friend *Figaro*, in his quality of daily paper, is at this moment, we regret to see, haled before the courts, for his chivalrous championship of the Archbishop of Aix. We wish him the speedy deliverance he deserves, and in the meanwhile hail his Christmas and New Year's Number, which is totally free from any such vexatious considerations. Here our gay comrade comes up smiling, as ever: with unabashed spirits, sprightly and entertaining. Let us look at the wares he has to offer. First and foremost there is a weird, mediæval story from M. Richepin's pen and worthy of his genius. It is called "The Holy Tear," and is supposed to be shed by the Penitent Thief, afterwards becoming the subject of a "quest," akin to that of the Holy Grail, upon the lines of which the writer has evidently worked. The coloured illustrations to this clever literary "conceit" are as startling and striking as the story itself. The well-know authoress who writes under the name of "Gyp," follows next with a pretty piece entitled "Miquette's Marriage," and "Renè de Pont Jest" occupies the succeeding pages with a tragic recital entitled "Uncle Bernard's Shadow." Mr. Kaemmerer's drawings to this last are distinctly noteworthy for their ability. The last page displays one of those clever "Stories without words" that have made the reputation of "Caran D'Ache," while three large coloured plates of handsome appearance are thrown in as a makeweight.

Everybody's Series.—Although free education has now become an accomplished fact in England, we have not yet quite reached the era of free literature. We are, however, coming very near it, and people can obtain copies of most of the great English classics for very little more than they pay for their daily morning paper. These cheap editions are, moreover, in most cases, bound in a style that would have been deemed impossible at the price a few years ago, printed in reasonably large type, and on good paper. Messrs. Howe & Co.'s "Everybody's Series" form another opportunity for readers whose means are limited to form an acquaintance with the works of Dickens, Lytton, Scott, Brontë, Hawthorne, James, and a host of other standard novelists. The form of the series is extremely convenient, the text is in all cases complete, and the author's latest additions and emendations have been added.

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Mrs. Arnold. By Denis Arkwright. (Masters & Co.)—This one-volume novel is at least curious in its originality. A young and beautiful lady takes compassion on an equally young Oxford man who is very rapidly going to the dogs—or elsewhere. She has money, he has love. She marries him, and there—is Mrs. Arnold. Poor Christabel has to pass her life in sadness in trying to save her husband, and only saves him in spending her own life for him, a life that few readers will regard as worth saving. The story is a tragedy, and almost the only thing of beauty in it are its heroine and its teaching.

Tib and Sib. By Stella Austin. (Masters & Co.)—Children may well be delighted with this story, written expressly to please them. Tib and Sib are exquisitely drawn, with a true delicacy, and a true appreciation of the reality of childish troubles to the childish mind. There is just the quaint blending of sun and shower that is so very real among children, yet that elders—having put away their childish things—seem generally unable to feel, and and therefore to describe. But here we find it with the true ring of the child's laugh, and as pure.

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The National Temperance Mirror (National Temperance Publication Depôt) is a capital illustrated magazine for the home circle. Its stories and sketches are many and well written, and while the object of the whole—the promotion of temperance in the use of alcoholic liquor—is ever kept in view, it is not unduly, so to speak, forced down the reader's throat. The illustrations are above the average, and the volume is nicely produced.

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A Charge to Keep. By P. A. Blyth. (Jarrold & Sons.)—A powerful story is this of a girl whose mother dies while the child is a mere babe, and whose father is absent, no one knows where. Then, when the girl is grown up her father turns up, and proves, as might be expected, a decidedly doubtful acquisition. Worse still he is an atheist, and one in whose past are moments that even in his after life produce bitter repentance and remorse. Poor Muriel, brave and true hearted through the many acts of her life's melodrama, has to suffer much, but at last the curtain falls upon a scene of peace, and the dainty heroine, though now a saddened and sobered woman, finds true and lasting happiness.

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Whittaker's Practical Handbooks.—Messrs. Whittaker & Co. are issuing under this title an admirable series of really practical and well illustrated handbooks on various scientific subjects. The first of these is *The Practical Telephone Handbook*, by Joseph Poole, who is well-known among telephonic experts as the chief electrician to one of the leading telephone companies. Mr. Poole has certainly put together one of the most complete works upon the subject that has yet appeared, and one that will stand very nearly first among the works of reference for telephonists. His manual is above all things practical, and details very thoroughly the most recent methods of telephonic working. The book moreover will be valuable, not only to those engaged in the telephonic service, but to users of the telephone and the public generally. The illustrations are excellent, and various points where difficulties commonly occur are noted, and simple remedies suggested. *The First Book of Electricity and Magnetism*, by W. Perren Maycock, M.I.E.E., is as thoroughly practical as the last, and is equally applicable to the wants of elementary science, art, and engineering students, and the public generally. The book is literally elementary, and will serve to interest many students in their work by introducing them in a friendly way to their text books. The language is happily of the simplest, and while the work is in strict accordance with the latest accepted ideas, the unhappy reader is not at first start bewildered by all kinds of references to ohms, volts, and all the other horrors only too common in the jargon of the modern electrician. The drawings are excellent also, and the book is specially adapted to the wants of students of the Science and Art Department.

Whittaker's Library of Popular Science.—Messrs. Whittaker & Co. have issued two or three volumes of the above-named series, which is intended to provide a series of easy introductions to the physical sciences adapted for general use. The first of these is entitled *The Plant World*, by G. Massee. The idea of the work is to furnish an introduction to the study of botany from the standpoint of considering plants as living organisms, subject to all the varied vicissitudes that are more generally recognised as influencing animal life. From this point of view, the changes that plants have undergone from time to time become intelligible, and the book—which is charmingly illustrated—thus enables its readers to clearly grasp the relationship among the various members of the animal kingdom. The second volume of the series is upon *Light*, and the author is Sir Henry Trueman Wood, the secretary of the Society of Arts, who, at the outset, assumes that his readers know nothing of his subject, or of mathematical methods. The book, indeed, has just been written to tell an intelligent student, unfamiliar with natural science, what he needs to know, and the information has been given in a sufficiently simple form, while avoiding either the language or style that would be needed in a book expressly intended for young people.

CHRISTMAS CARDS.—It would appear that the fashion of sending Christmas Cards and New Year Cards is not yet on the decline, if we may judge from the number of specimens that have reached us. Among makers of such articles there is no firm more widely known than that of Messrs. Hildesheimer & Faulkner, who this year display the same enterprise that has characterised their work in former years. Hundreds of absolutely new designs have again occupied the hands of their many artists during the past twelve months, and many of these show a marvellous ingenuity in catching some more or less topical idea as the subject for a quaint illustration. The shaped cards are more numerous and varied than ever, and some of the wonderfully realistic beasts and birds now carry "practicable" rolls of paper under a leg or a a wing. These little rolls and volumes, being tenderly lifted out and opened, appear with appropriate mottoes and greetings. The flower-cards are really very beautiful in many cases, and there are dainty figure studies, animal studies, land and marine sketches, and —well, others two numerous to mention, even in groups, let alone singly. The whole of the cards are beautifully turned out, and the verses, which a few years ago were generally poor in the extreme, are now for the most part quotations from well-known poets whose lines really fit the illustration given.

CHRISTMAS GAMES FOR CHILDREN.—Messrs. Hildesheimer & Faulkner have issued a number of new games for children which will be widely appreciated. and especially in the many houses where cards of all kinds are not regarded as just the best things for youngsters to learn to play with. "Flickem" is a new indoor game, which consists in throwing certain small squares of cardboard from a distance into a square frame set up on the floor or table. The small squares are differently coloured and of different values, and the player who "flicks" his squares more frequently (on squares of higher value) than his rivals, wins the game. "Spottit," is a new geographical game, which consists really in answering questions provided on a code, and asked by an umpire, and in finding places on the maps supplied. He who answers best, wins; and of course the frequent playing of "Spottit," would be as good as a course of geography lessons, and much more interesting for the little ones. "Stumbling-blocks" is another educational game, the materials for which really form four or five separate and distinct games. They are played with a special board something like a draught-board (it will serve for one upon occasion), and a number of small cardboard letters—it is in fact, a silent version of "Spelling bee," and must be very useful in bringing on youngsters whose spelling is shaky.

THE ENGLISH IMPERIAL ATLAS. — Readers of the daily papers—a phrase which is pretty nearly synonymous with the English people—have one fact impressed upon their notice day by day. The smallness of the world in which we live is emphasised in the most marked manner by the masses of cablegrams and telegrams from all parts of the globe which appear day by day in the newspapers. We are as closely in touch with the remotest parts of Australia, China, Africa or India as with the towns that stud so thickly our own provinces, and the most careful reading alone is sufficient to keep the reader well informed of what is passing. This fact necessitates a knowledge of geography which we neither thought of nor cared for a single generation ago, and those who have not that intimate acquaintance with the geographic science that the rising generation has, find it needful constantly to have at hand a clear and full atlas wherein all the towns mentioned in the papers are carefully indicated. Such a want is met by the *English Imperial Atlas*, which has just been published by Messrs. Nelson & Sons, under the watchful eye of its editor, Mr. J. G. Bartholomew. The atlas contains altogether over a hundred maps, together with a host of small plans, inset and sectional maps, and a general gazetteer which will be found of great value in consulting the work. The whole of the maps have been brought up to date with the greatest diligence, as may be seen, for instance, by anyone who consults the maps of the various Australian colonies. The South American map also, which presents quite a pictorial appearance, is another instance of careful and close revision, while the African maps show the very latest results of exploration, annexation, and protectorates. The whole of the atlas is beautifully printed, and the names are charmingly clear.

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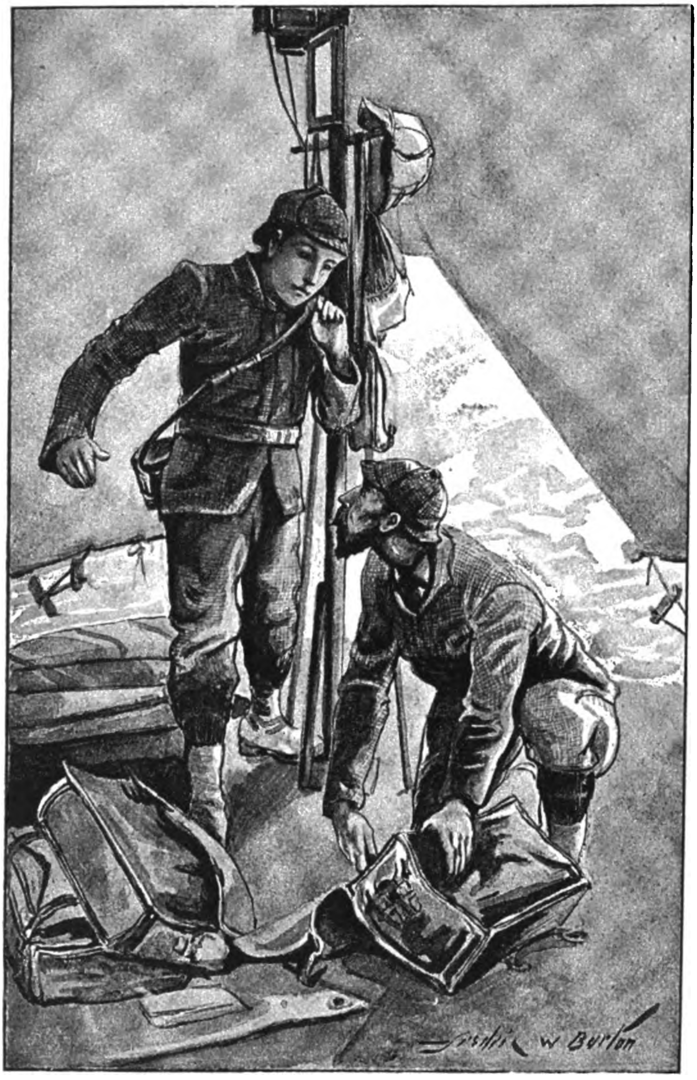

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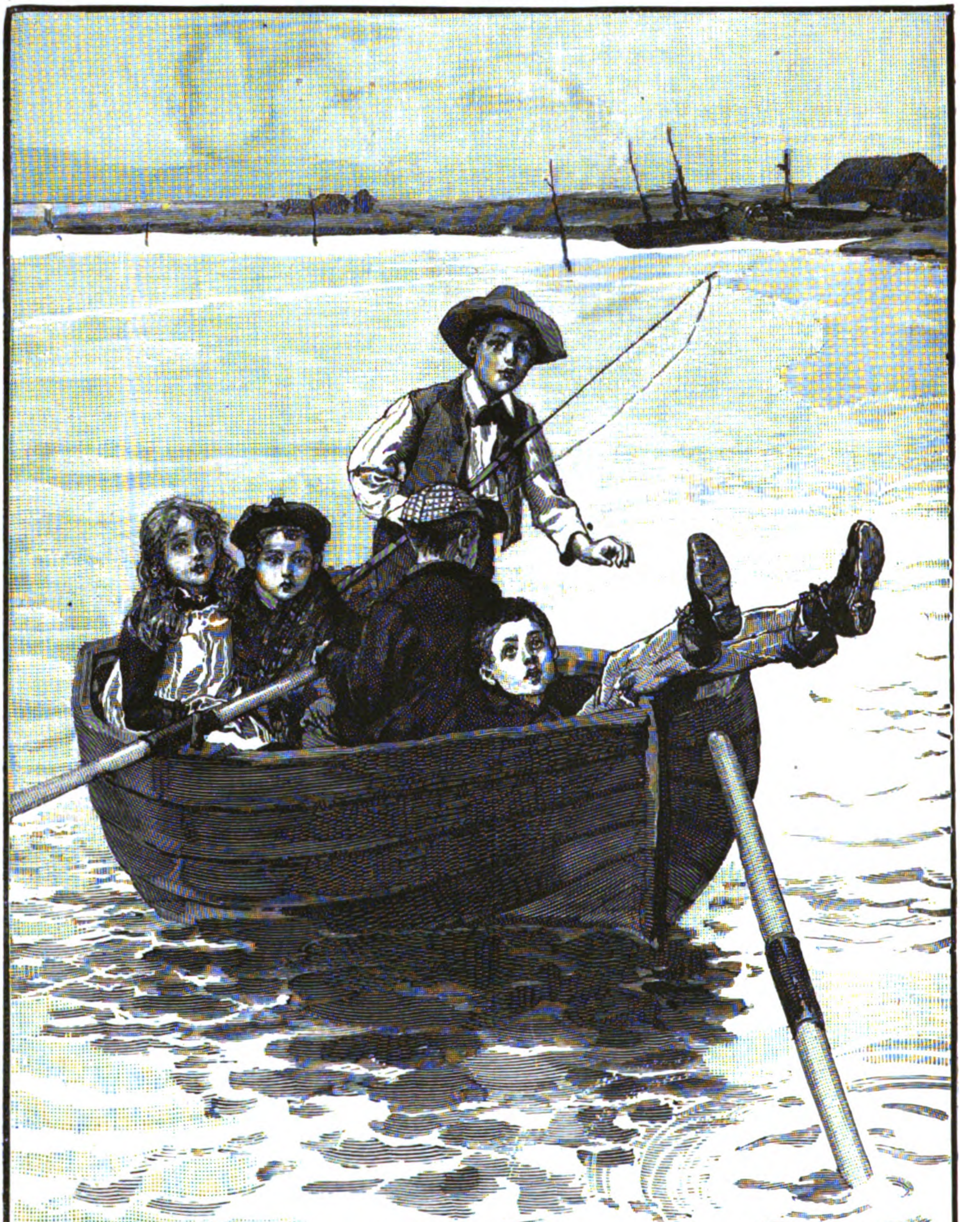

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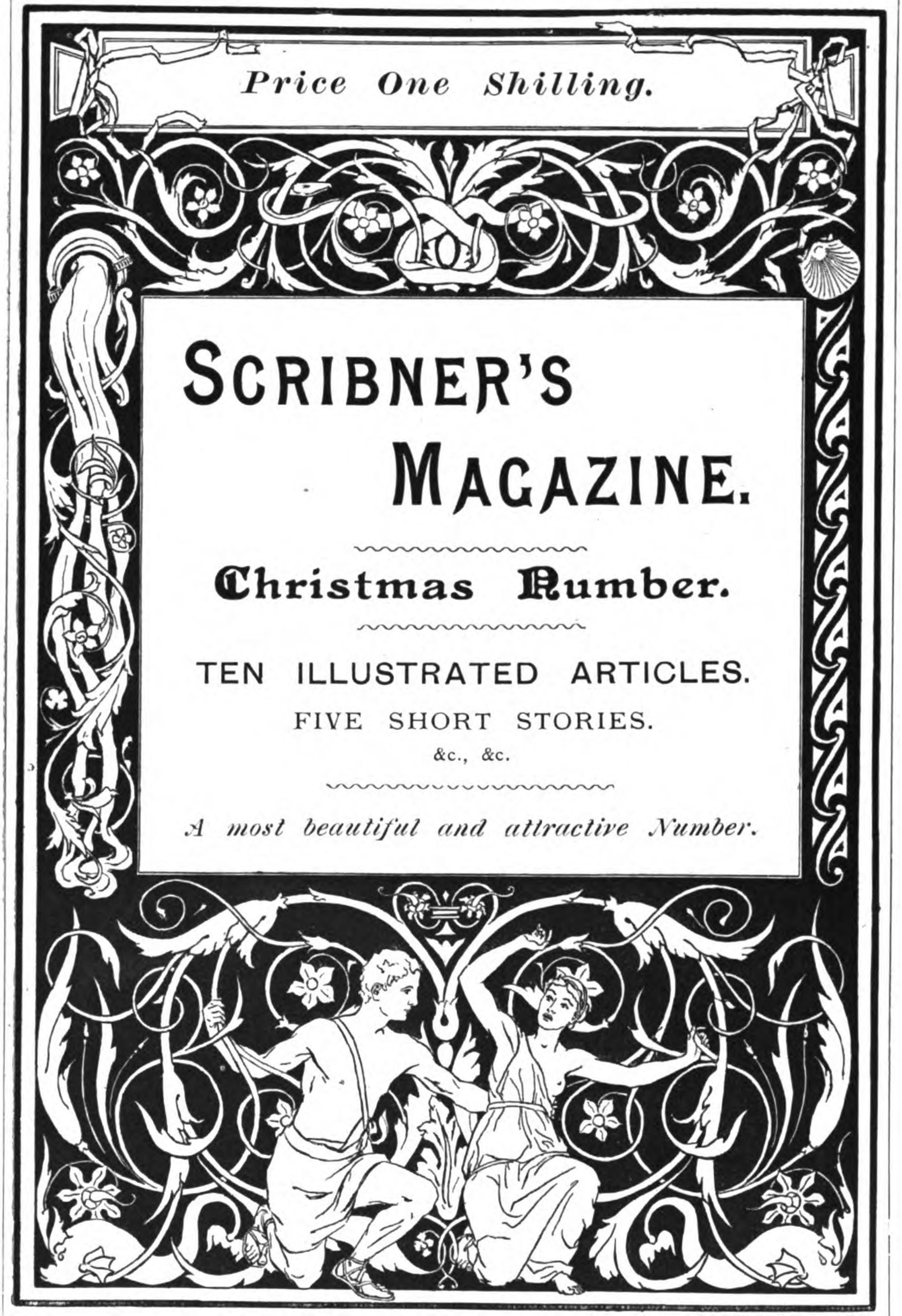

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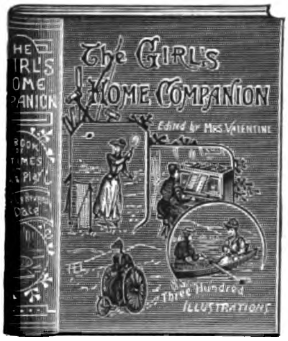

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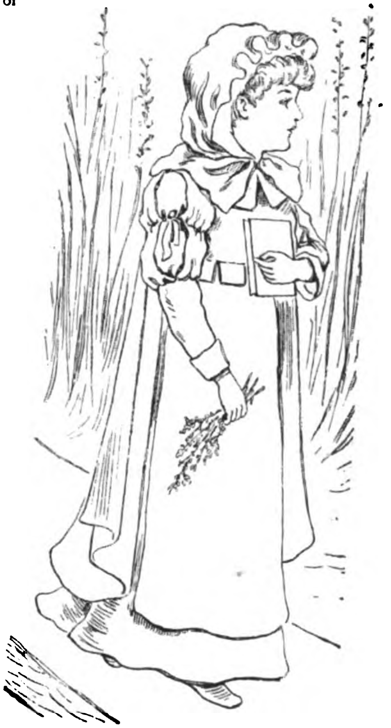

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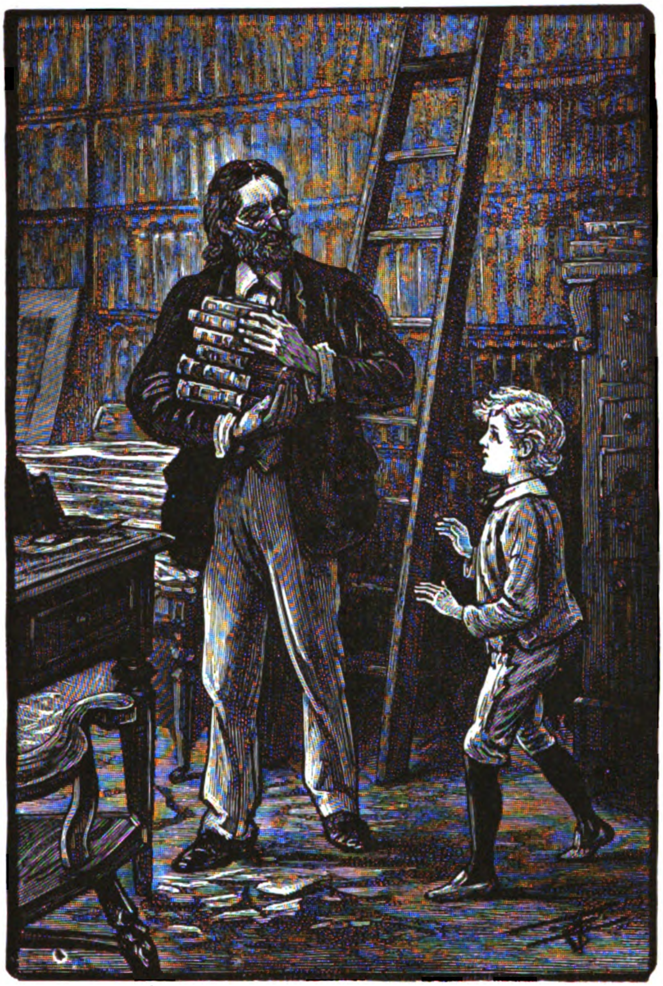

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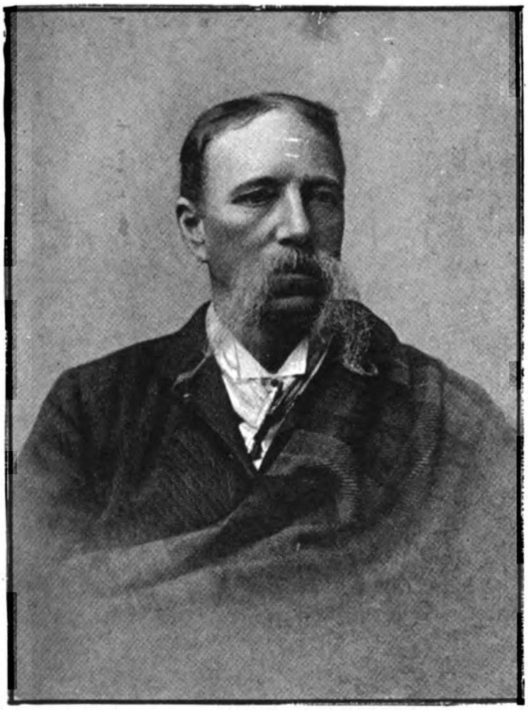

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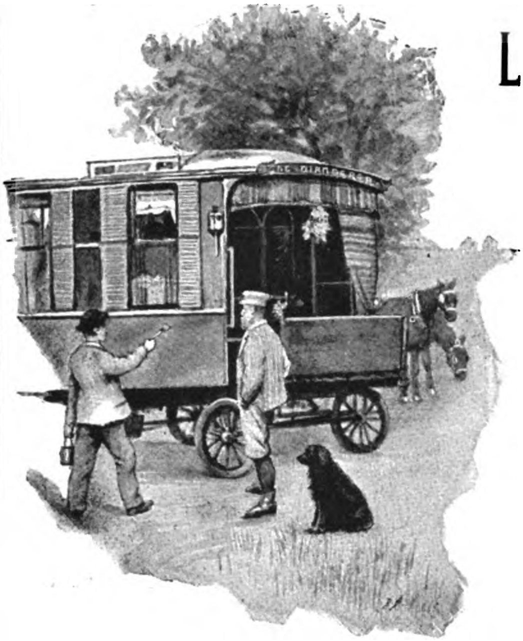

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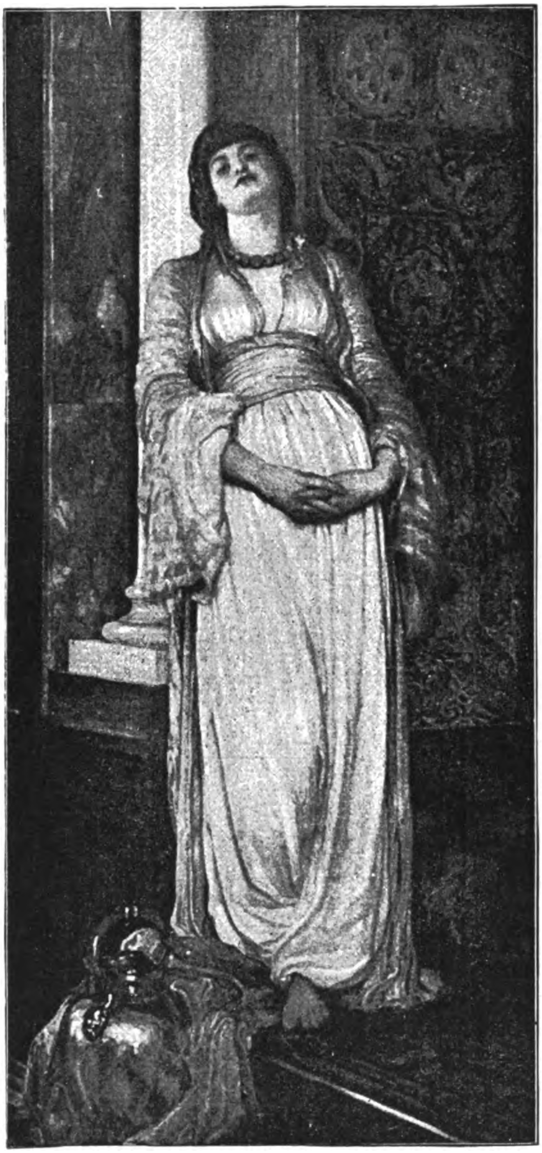

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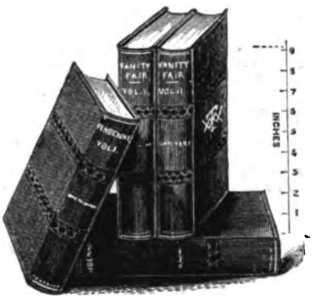

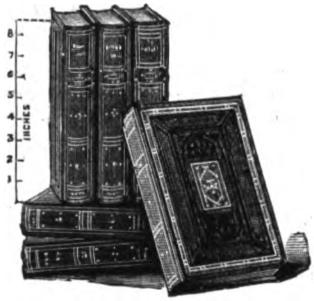

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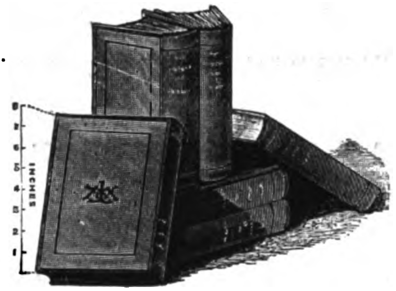

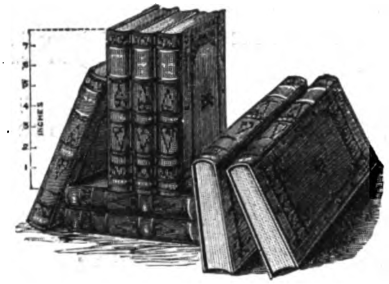

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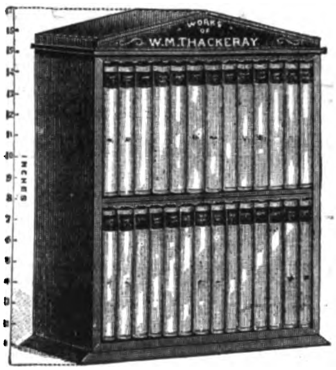

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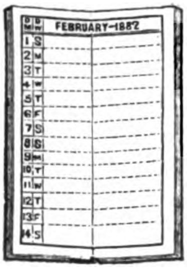

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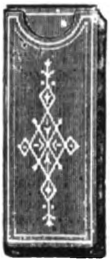

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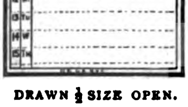
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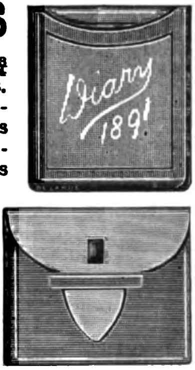

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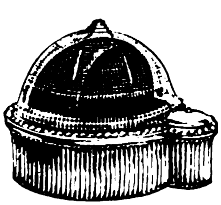

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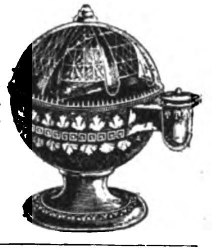

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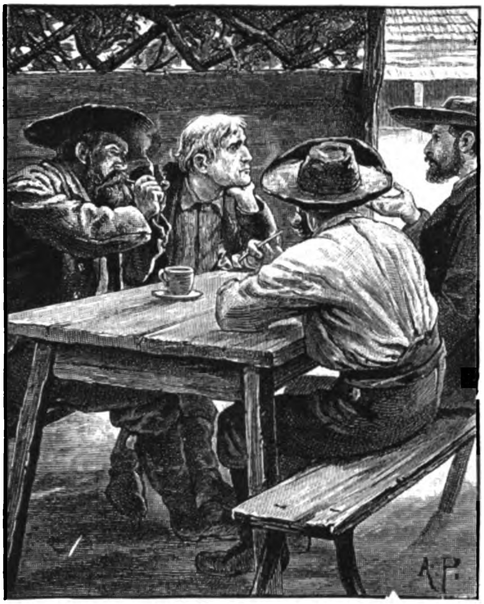

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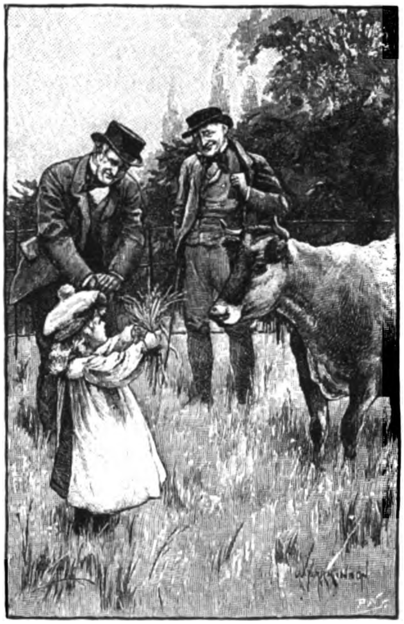

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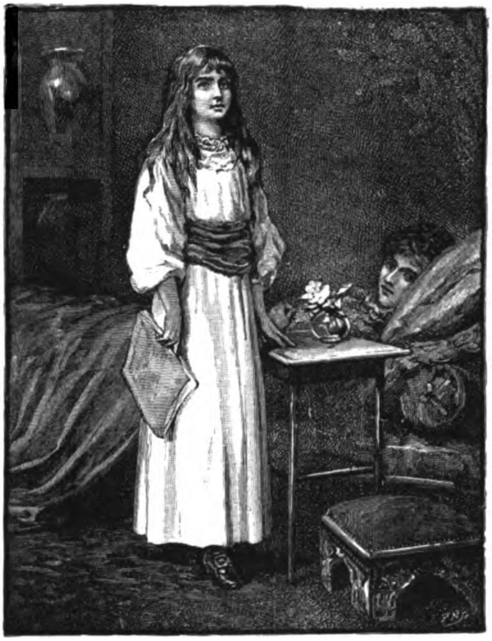

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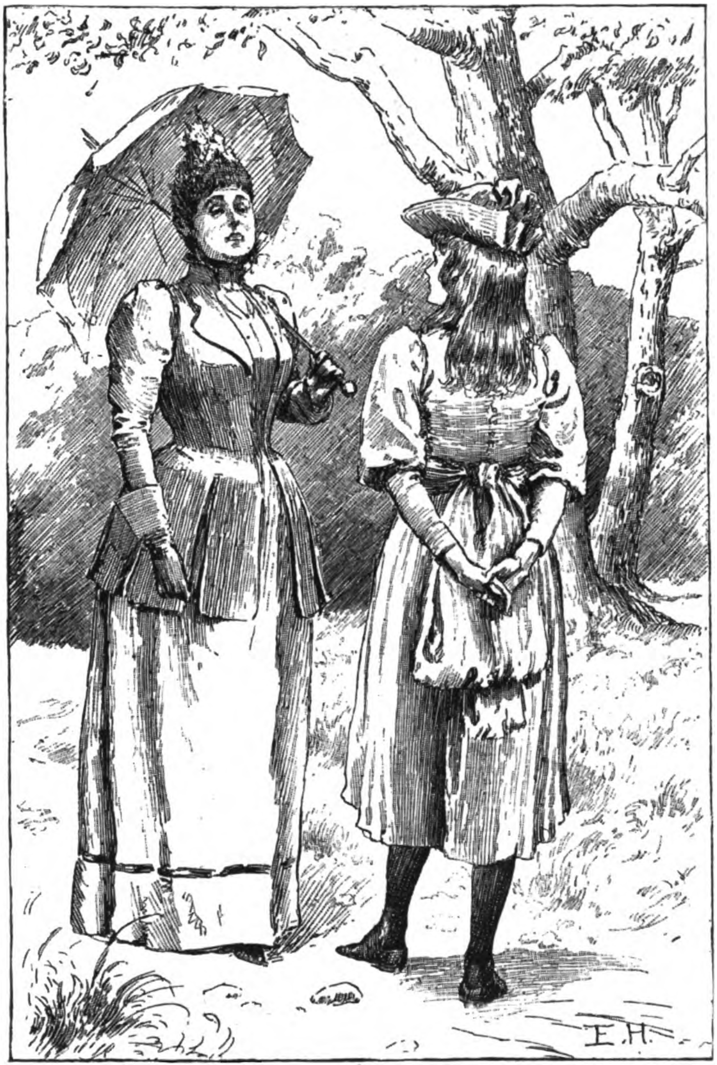

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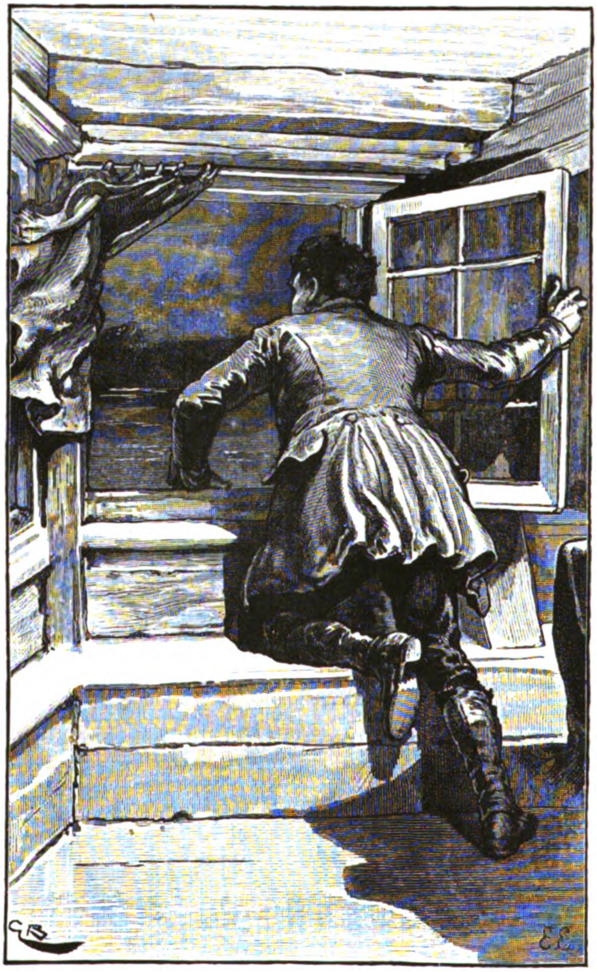

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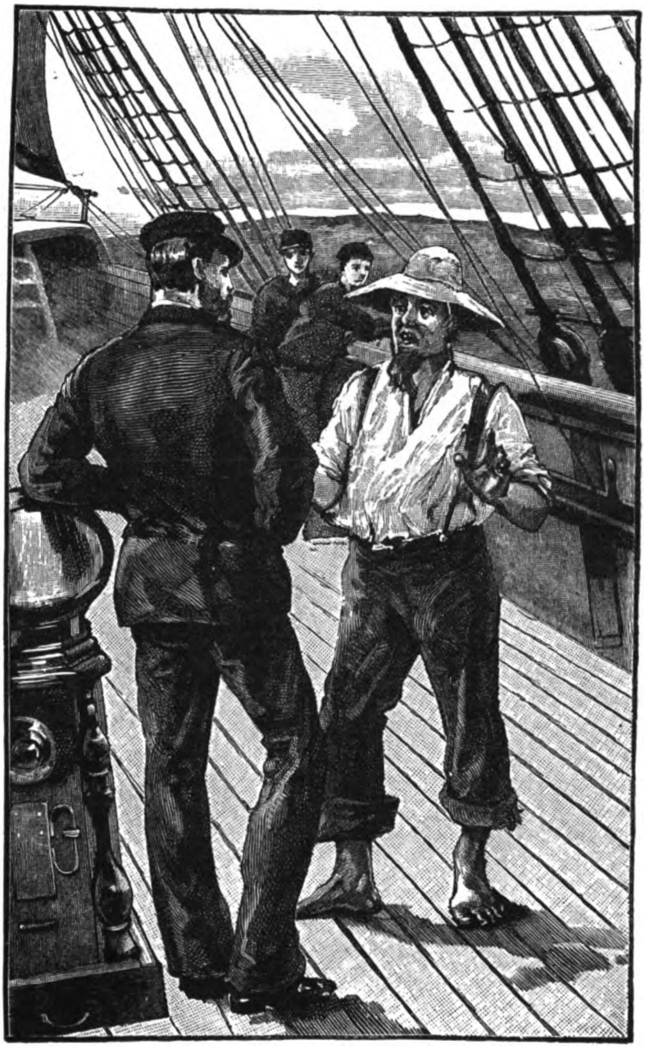

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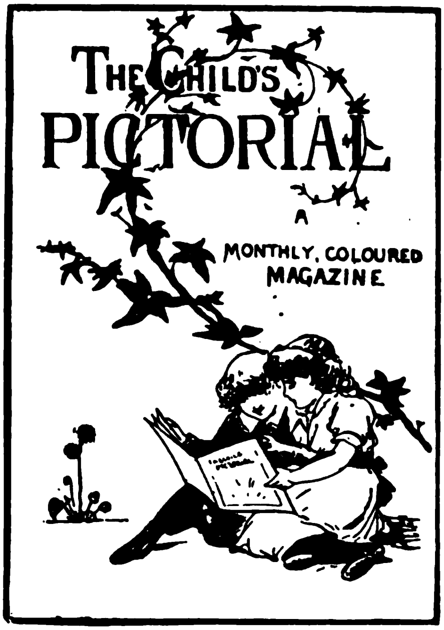

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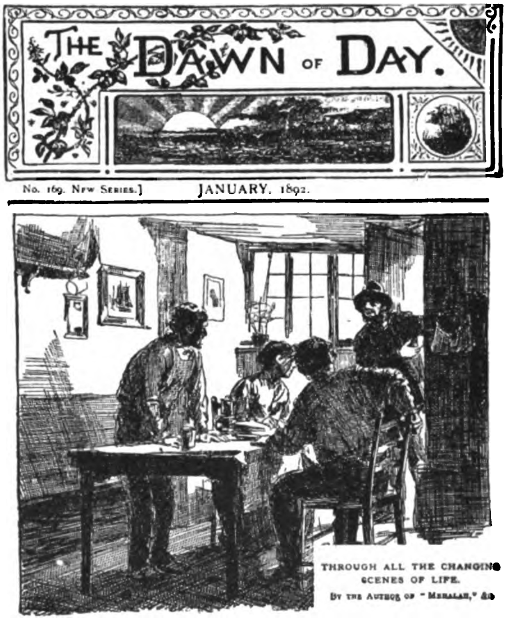
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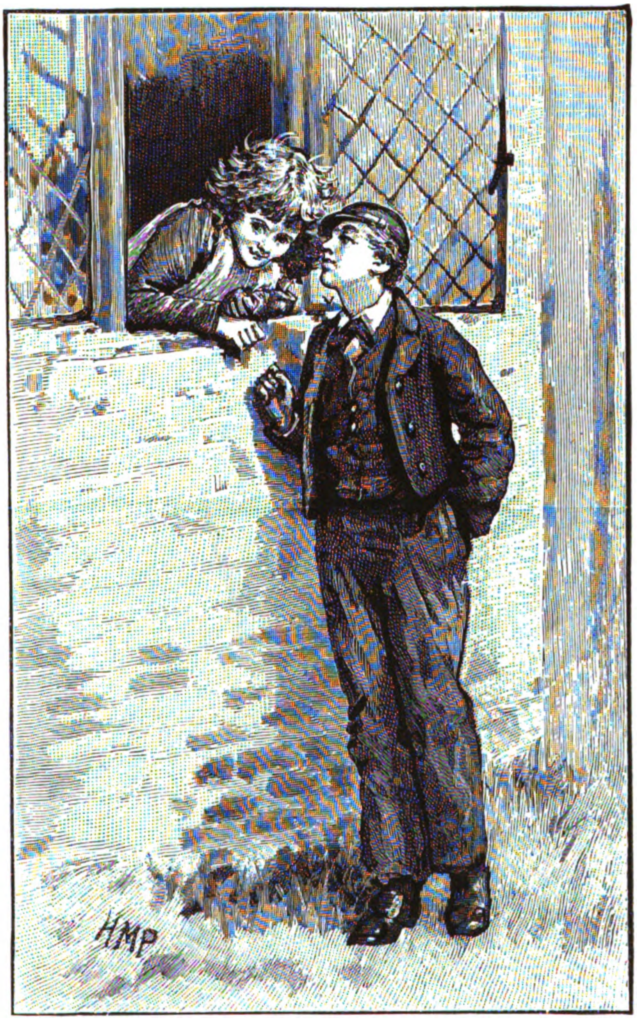

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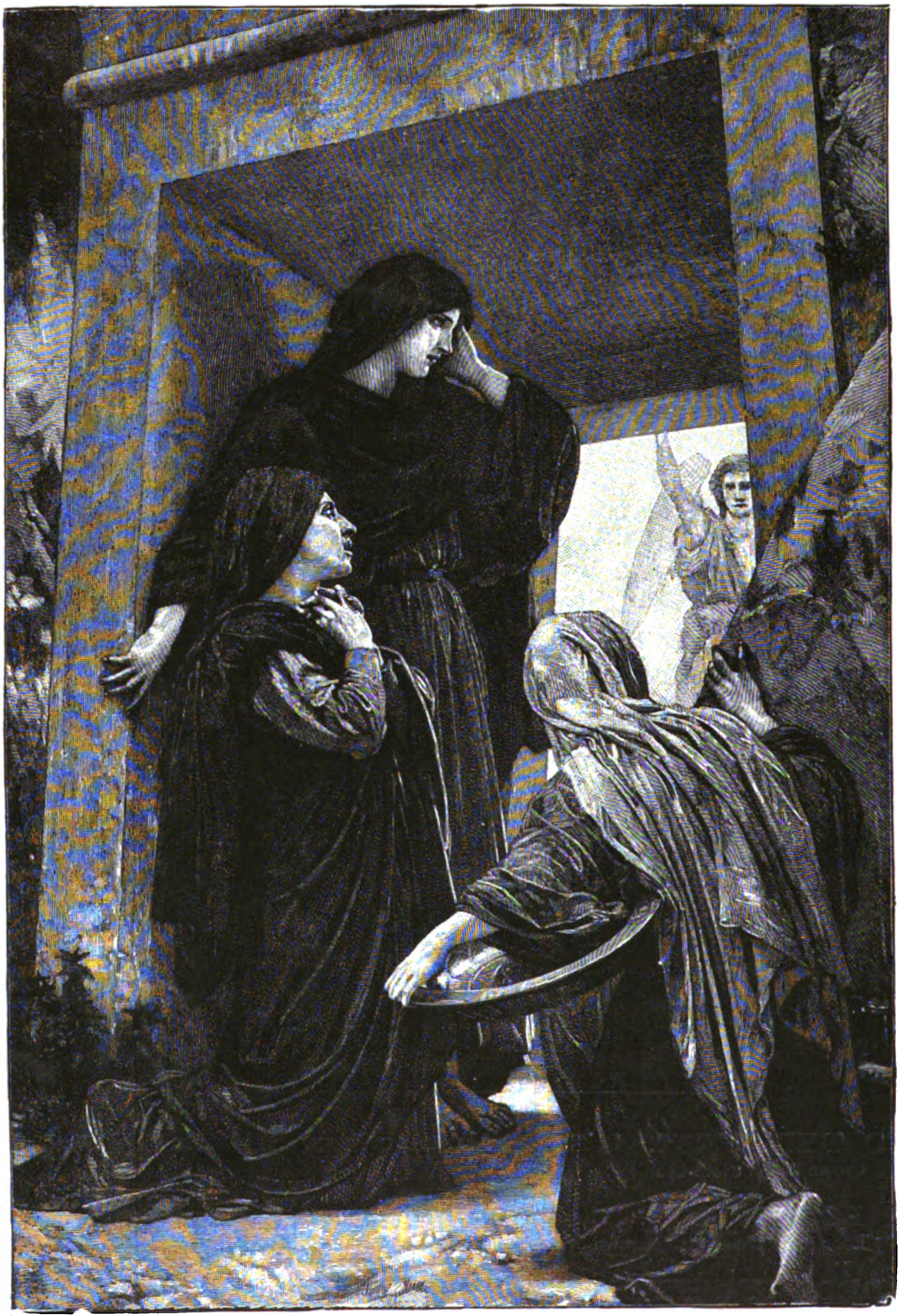

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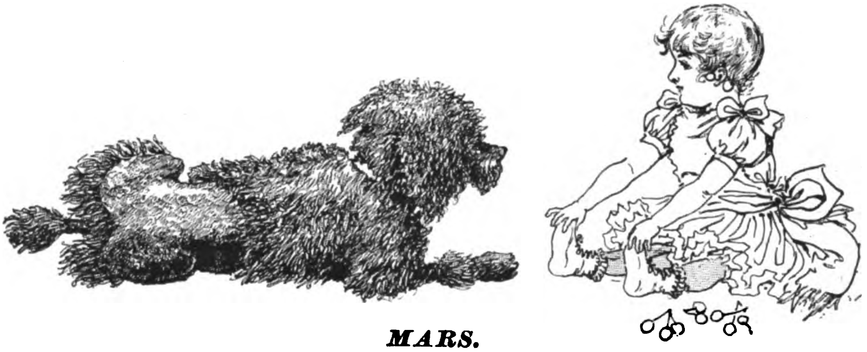

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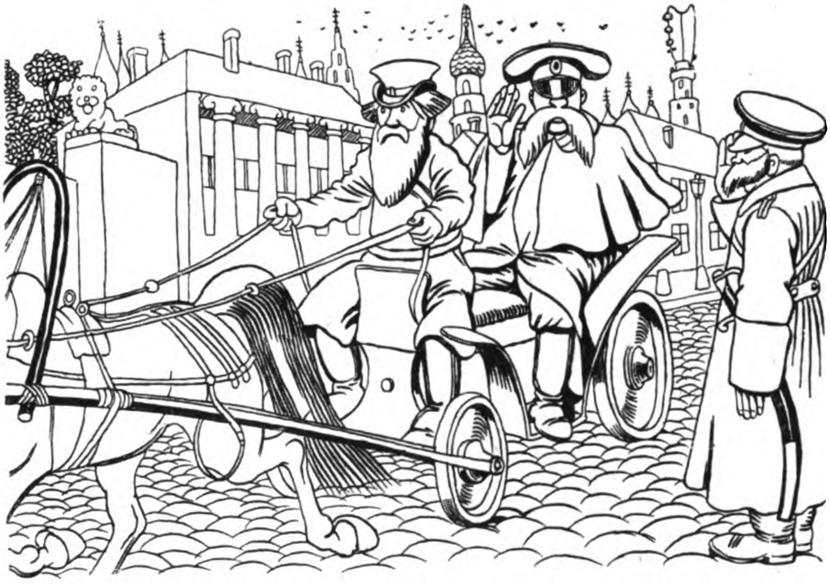

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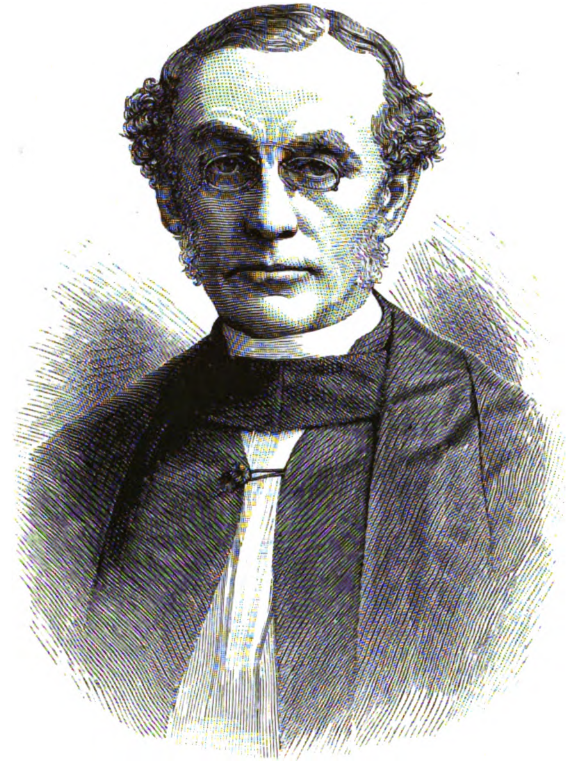

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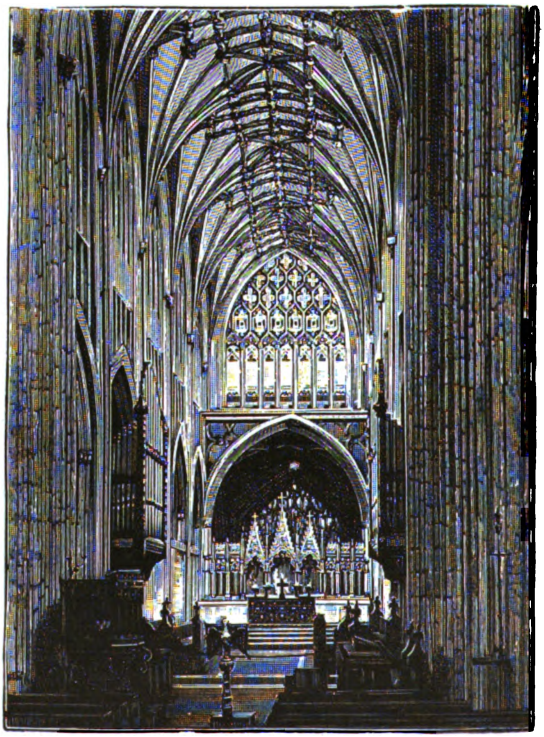

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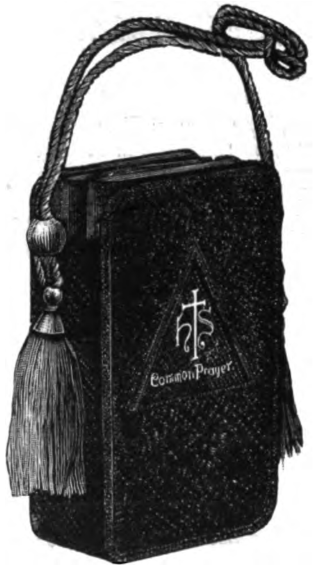
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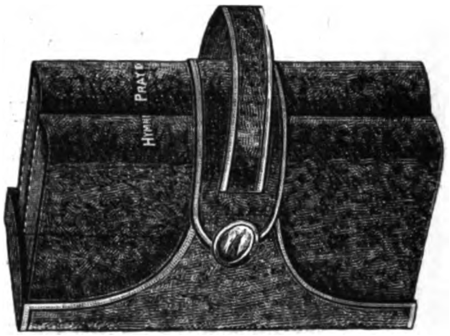
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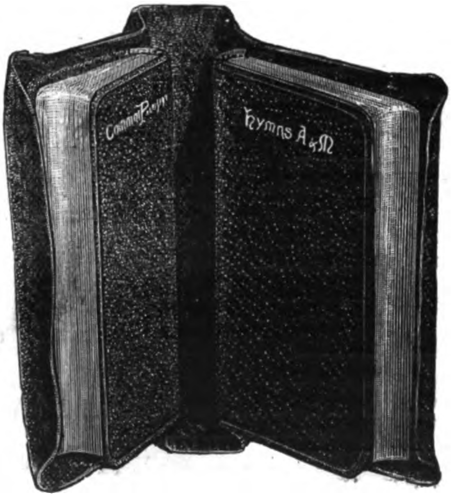
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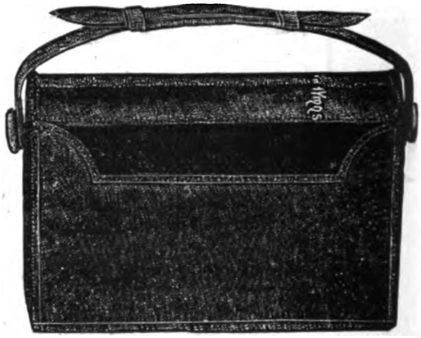

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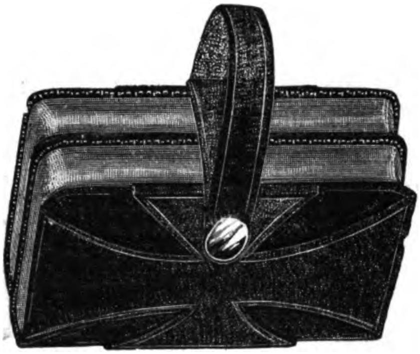

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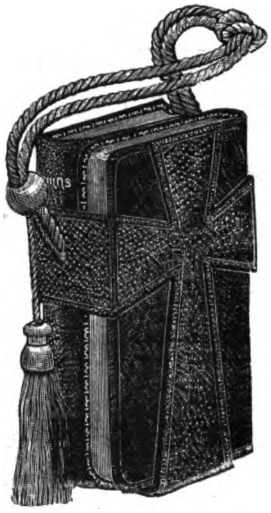

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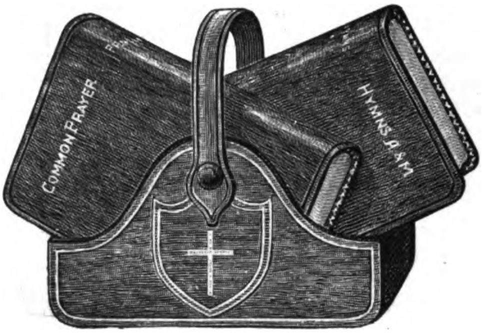

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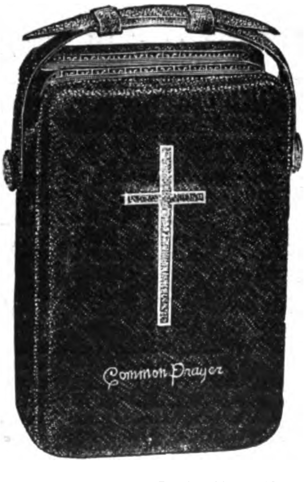

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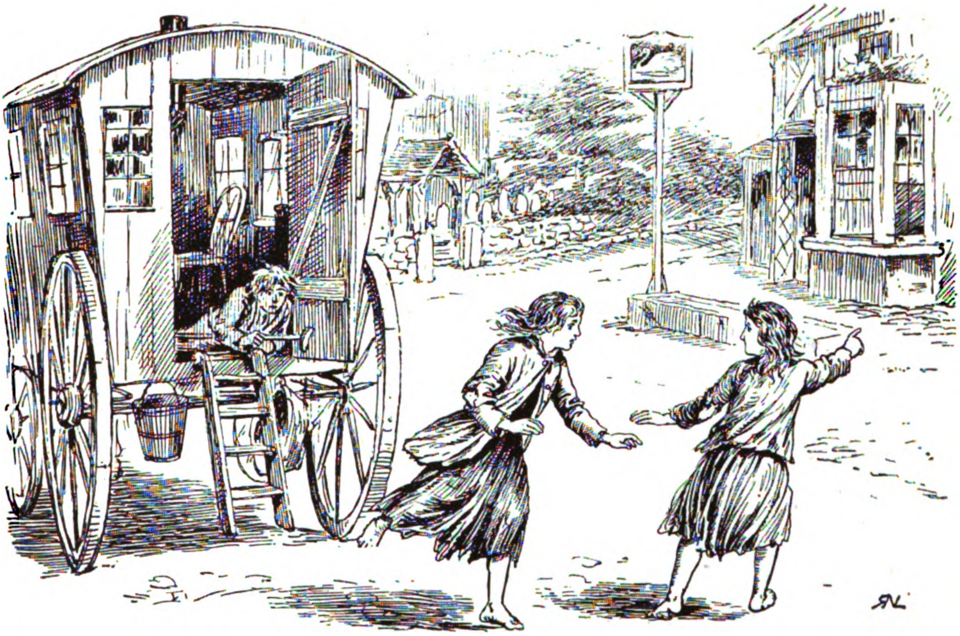

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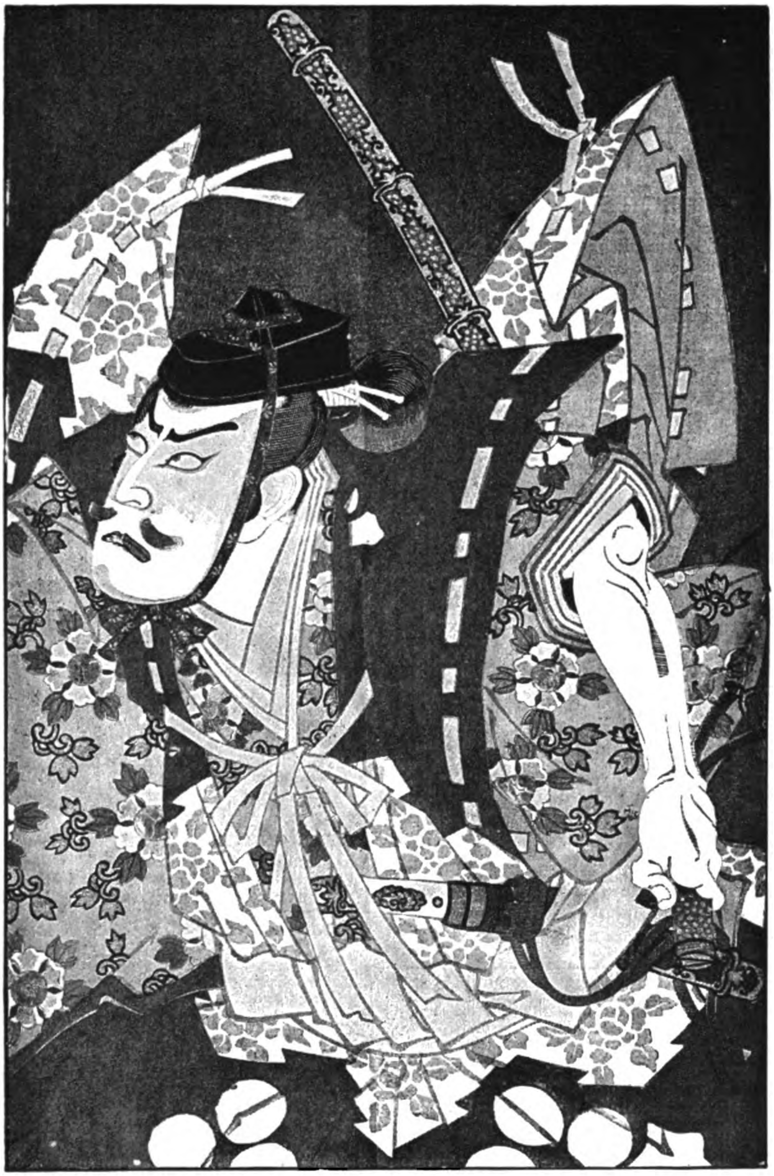

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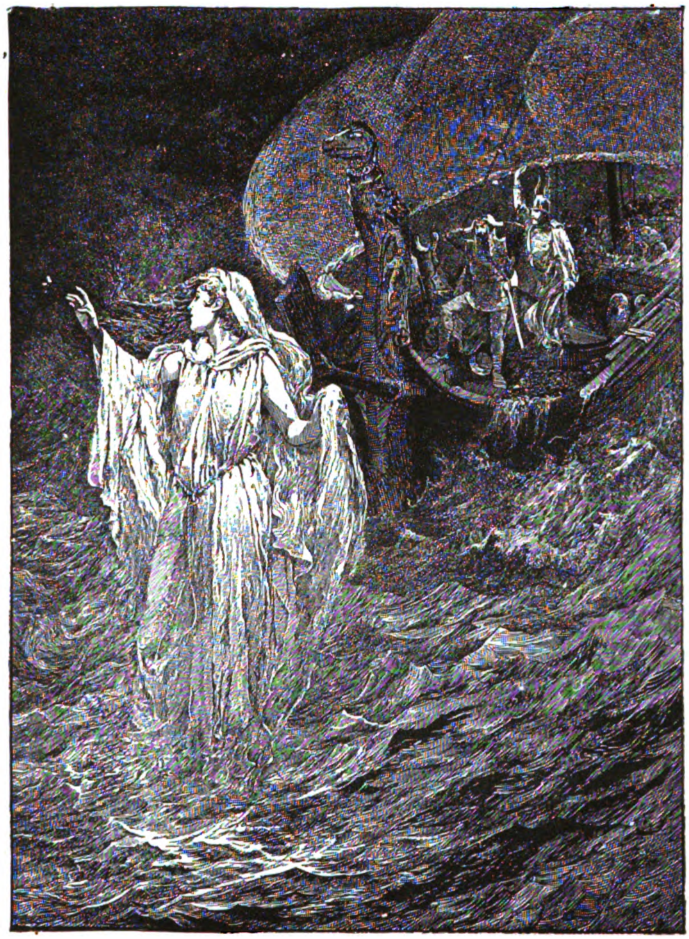

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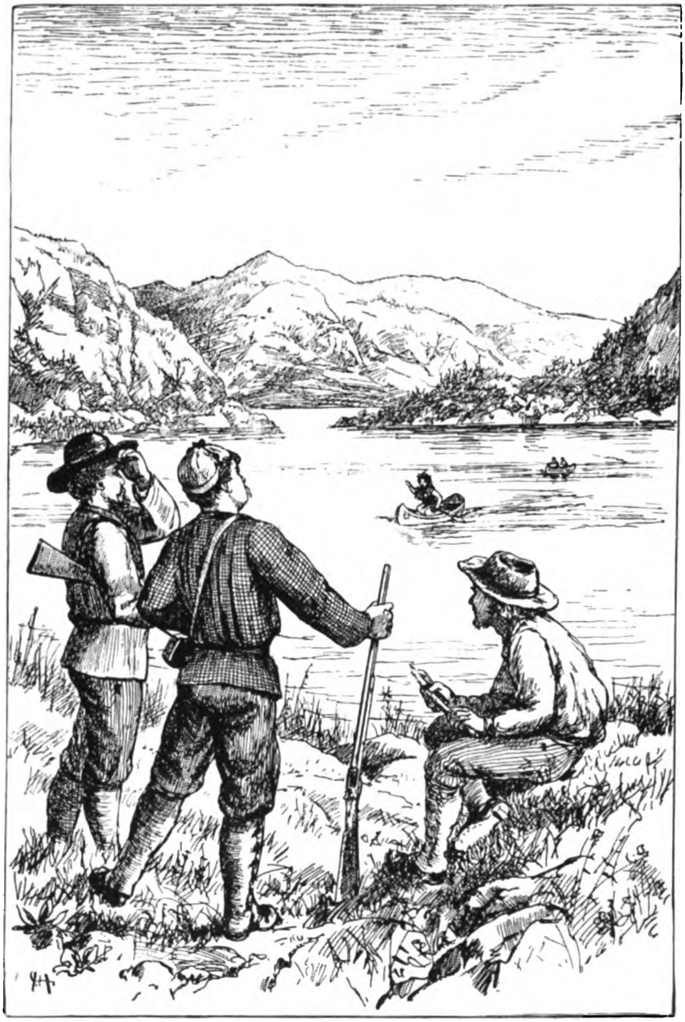

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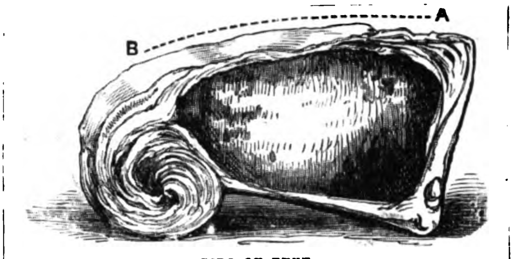

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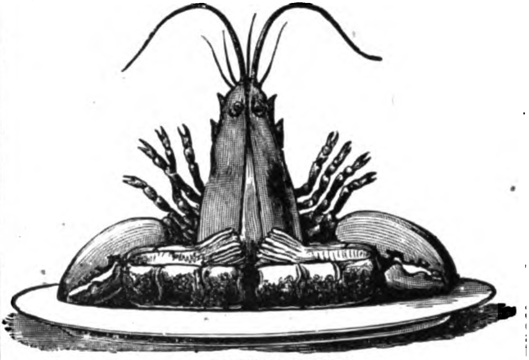

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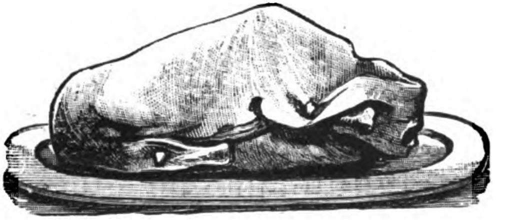

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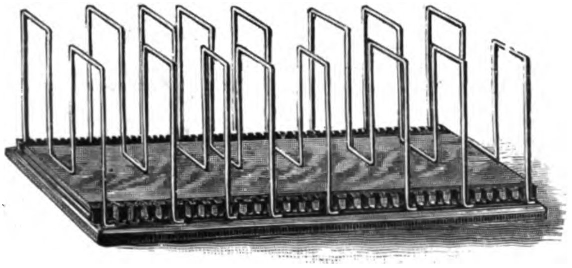

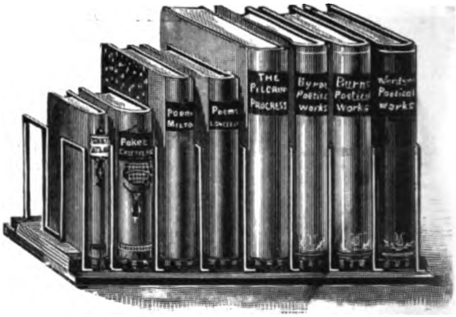

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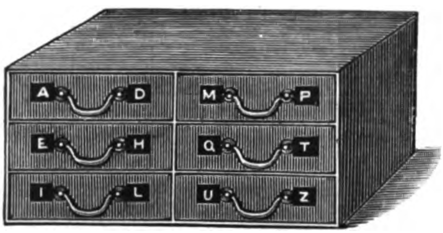

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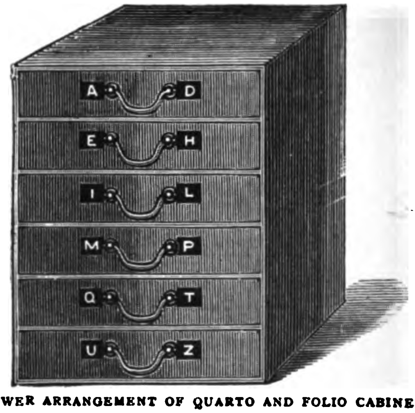

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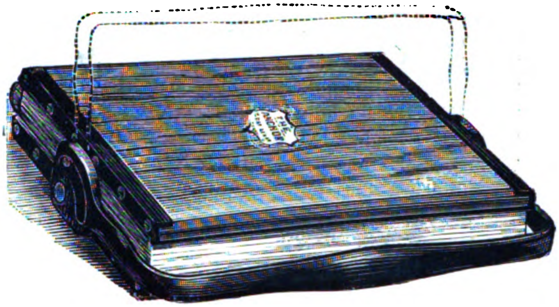

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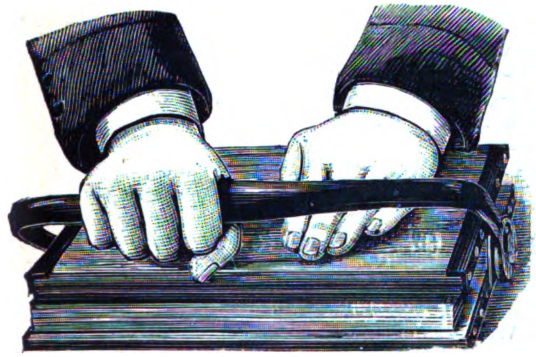

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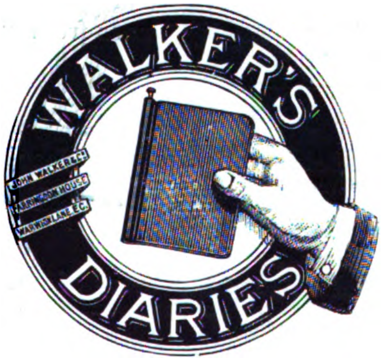

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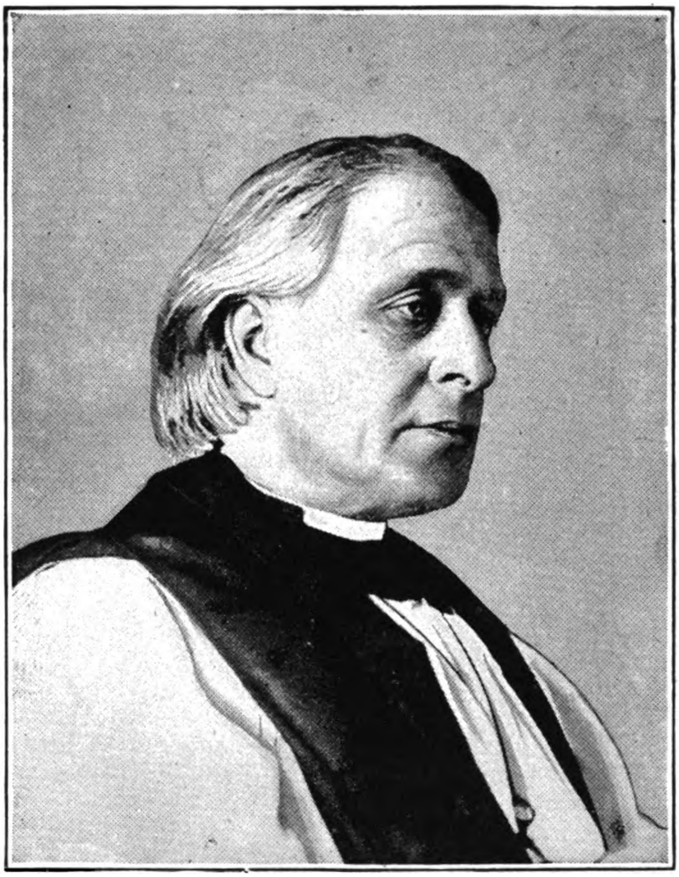

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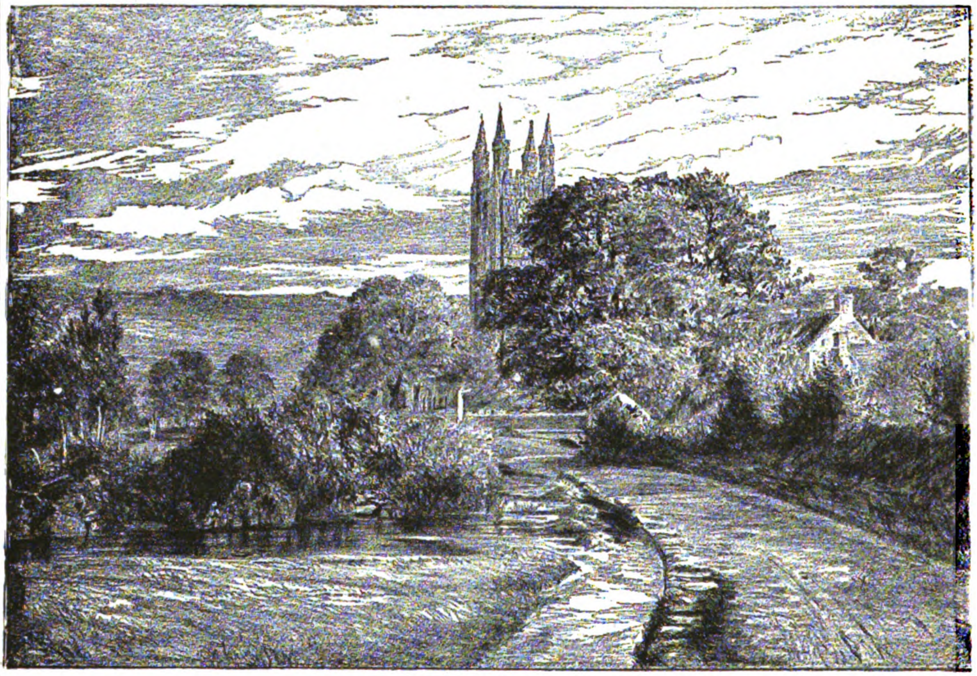

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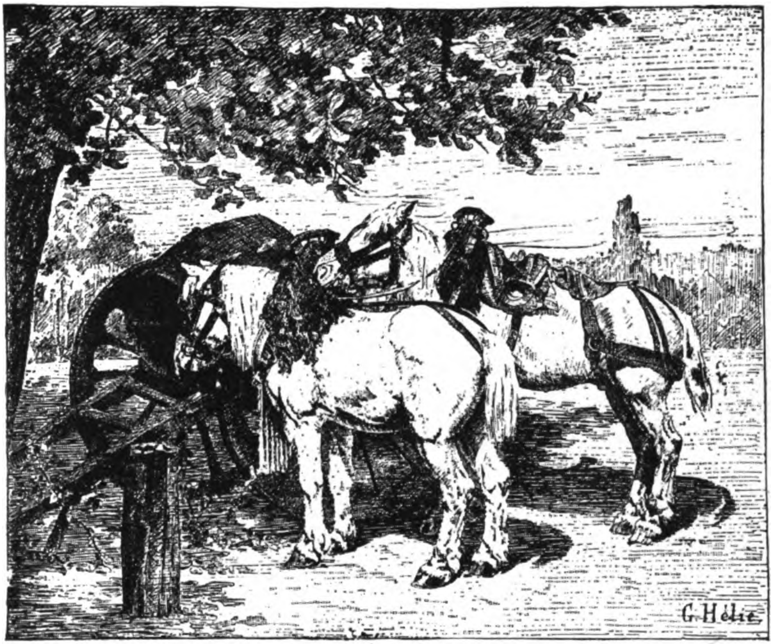

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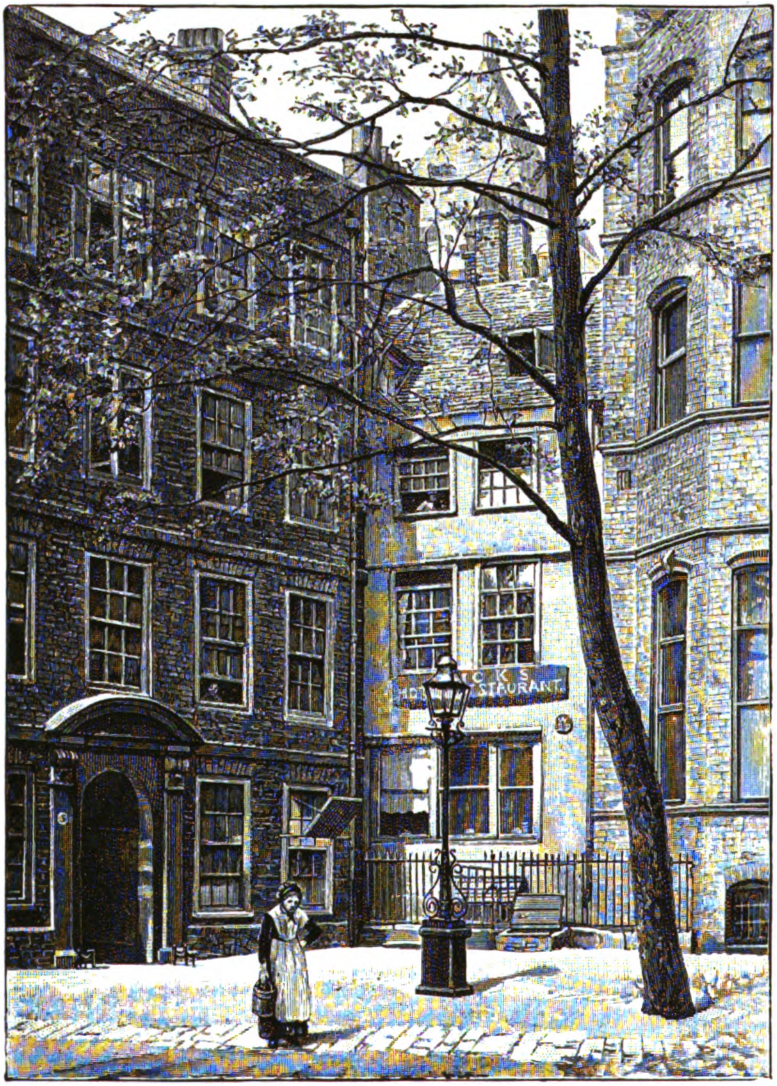

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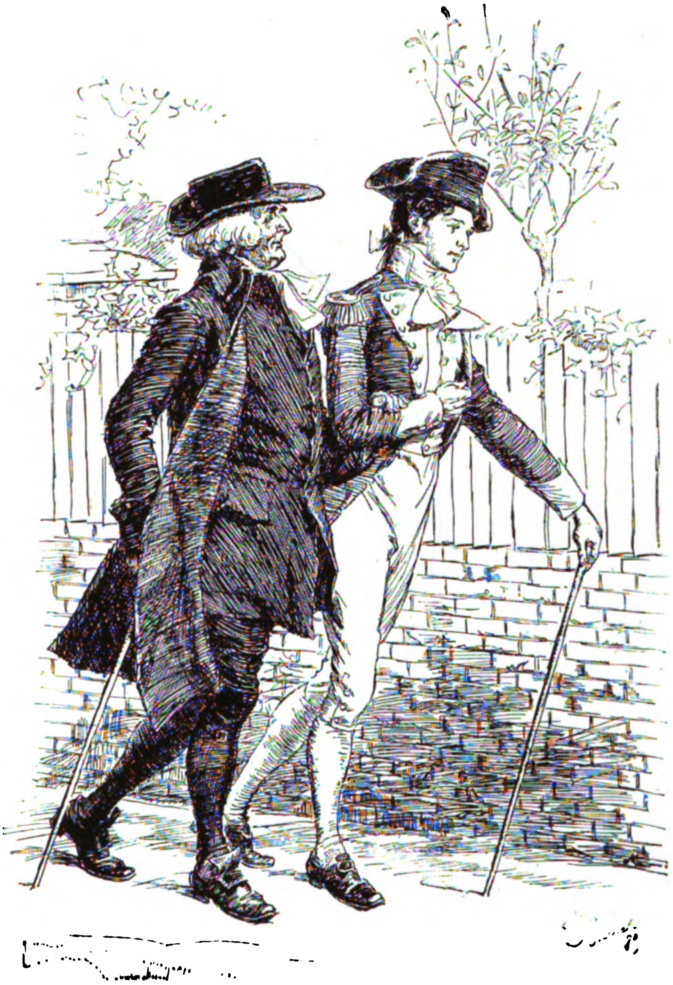

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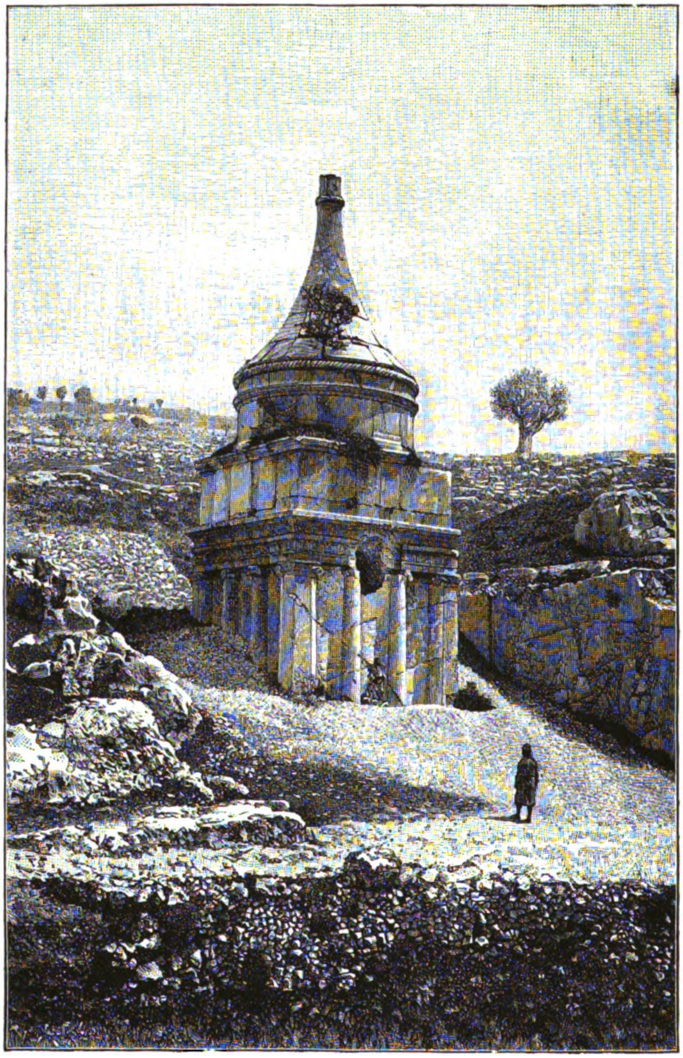

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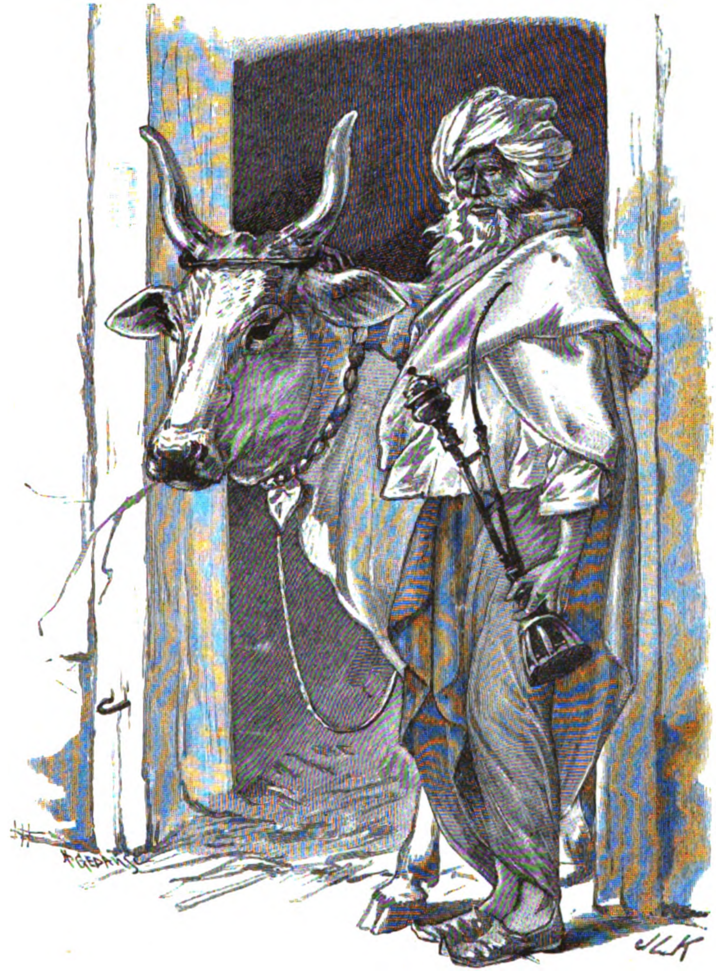

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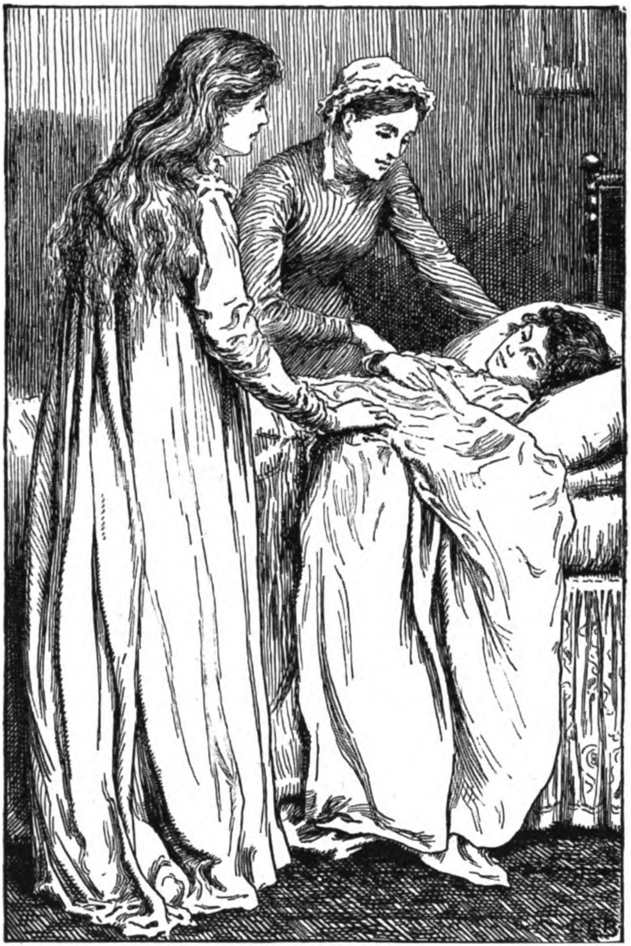

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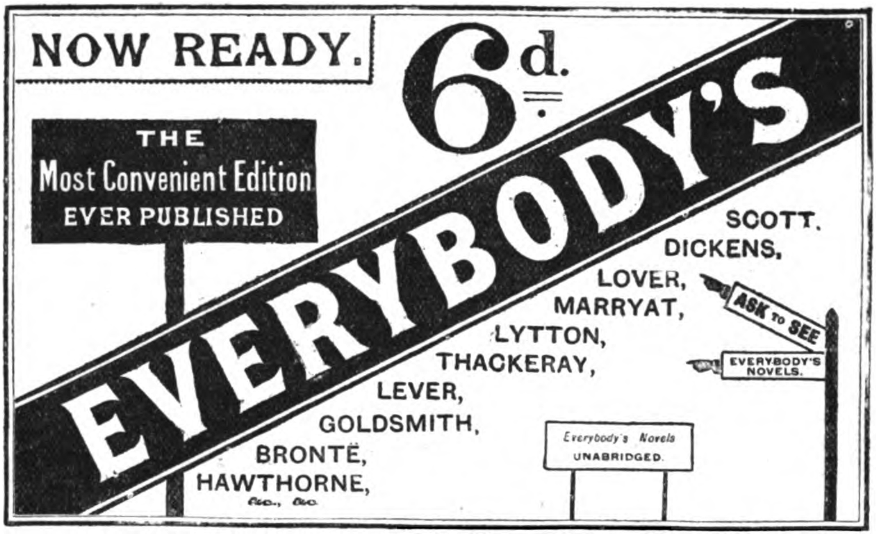

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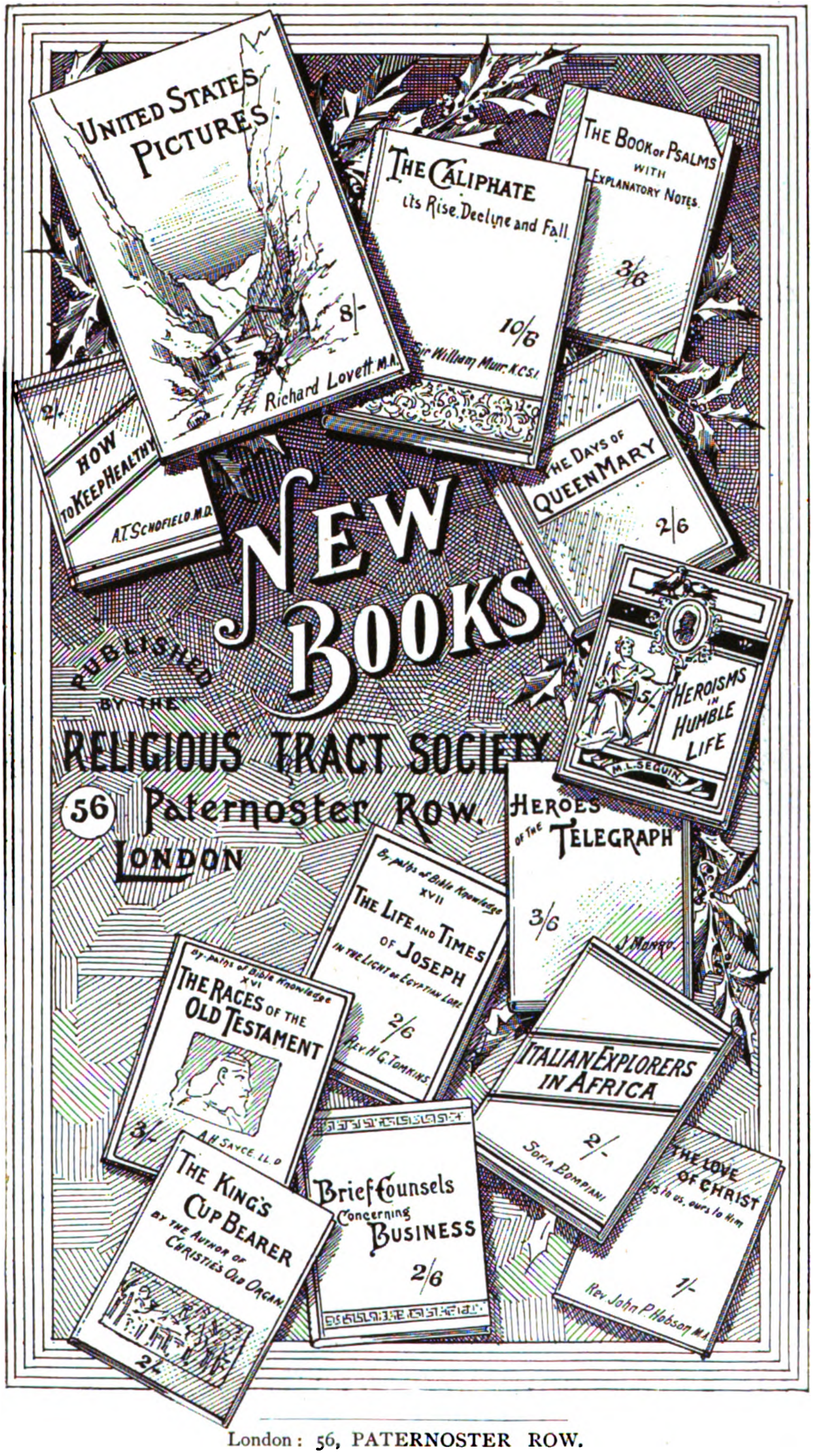
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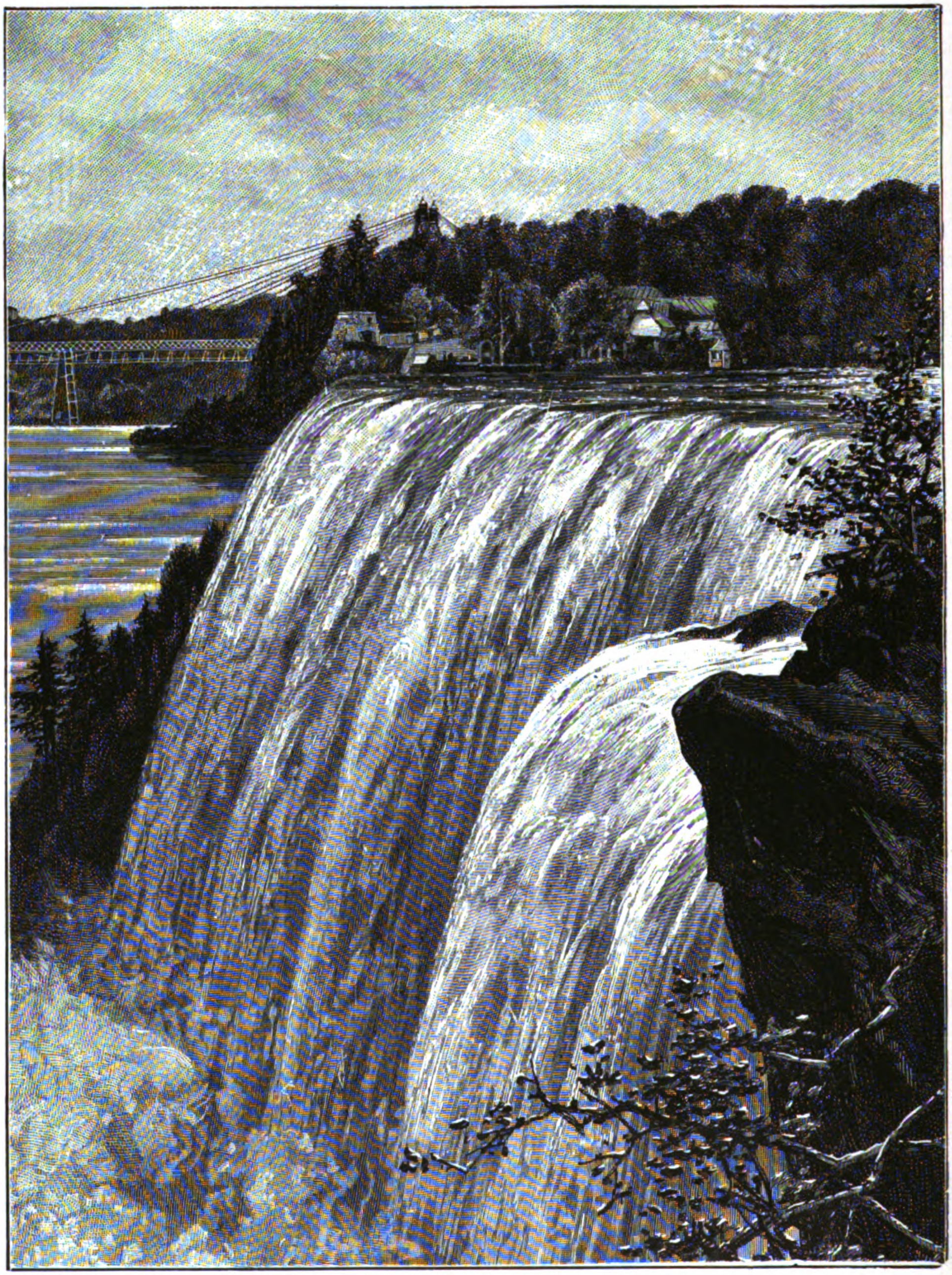

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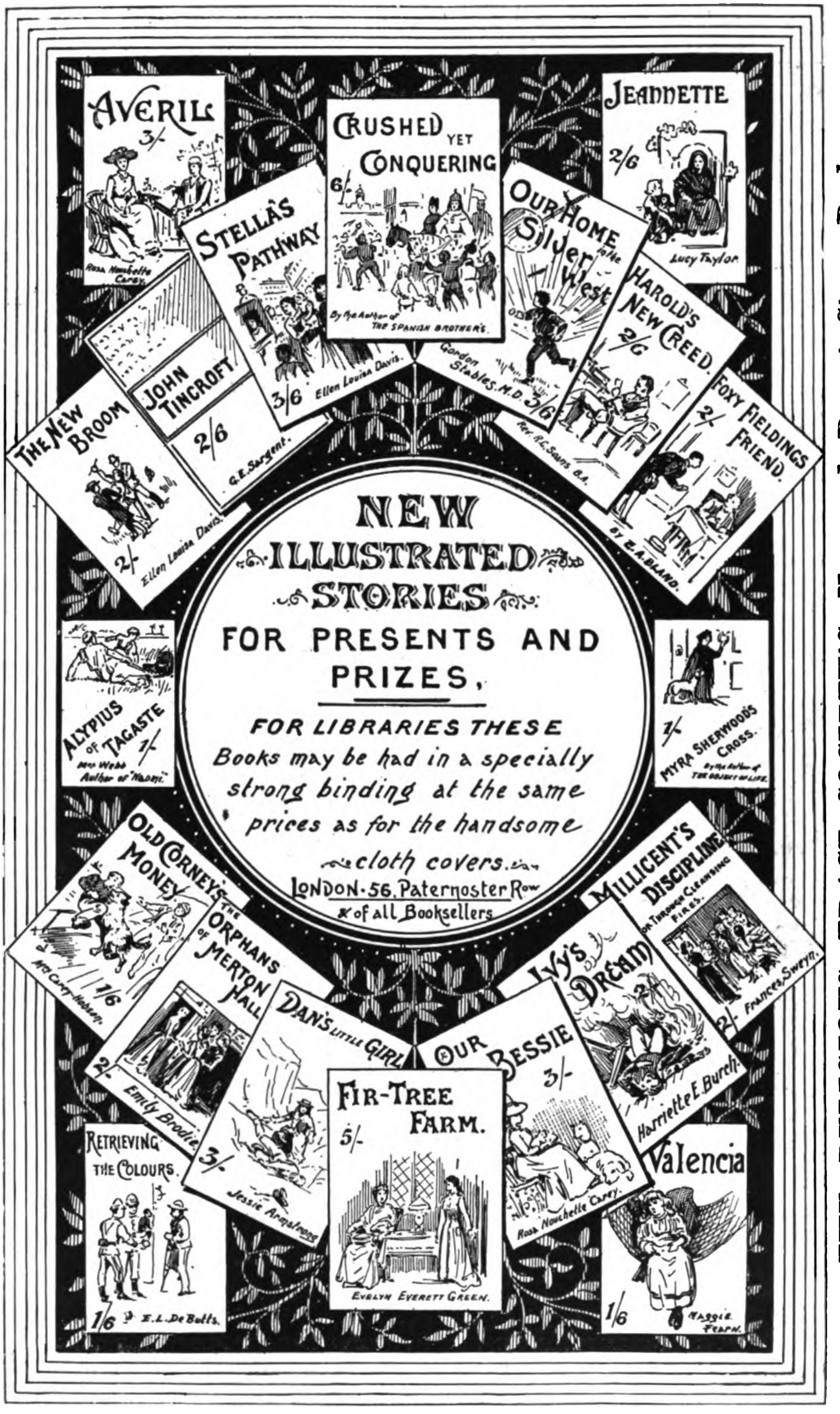
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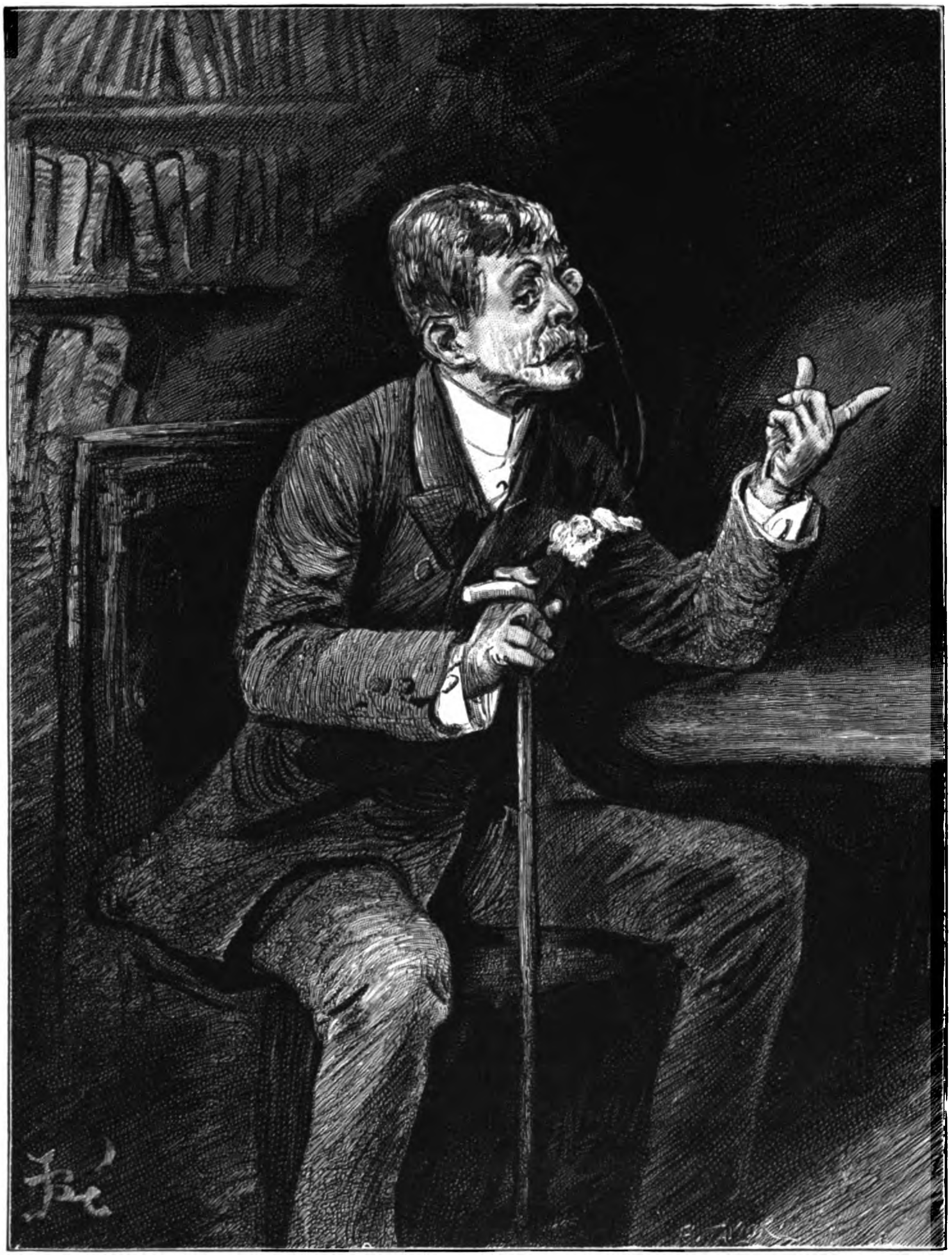

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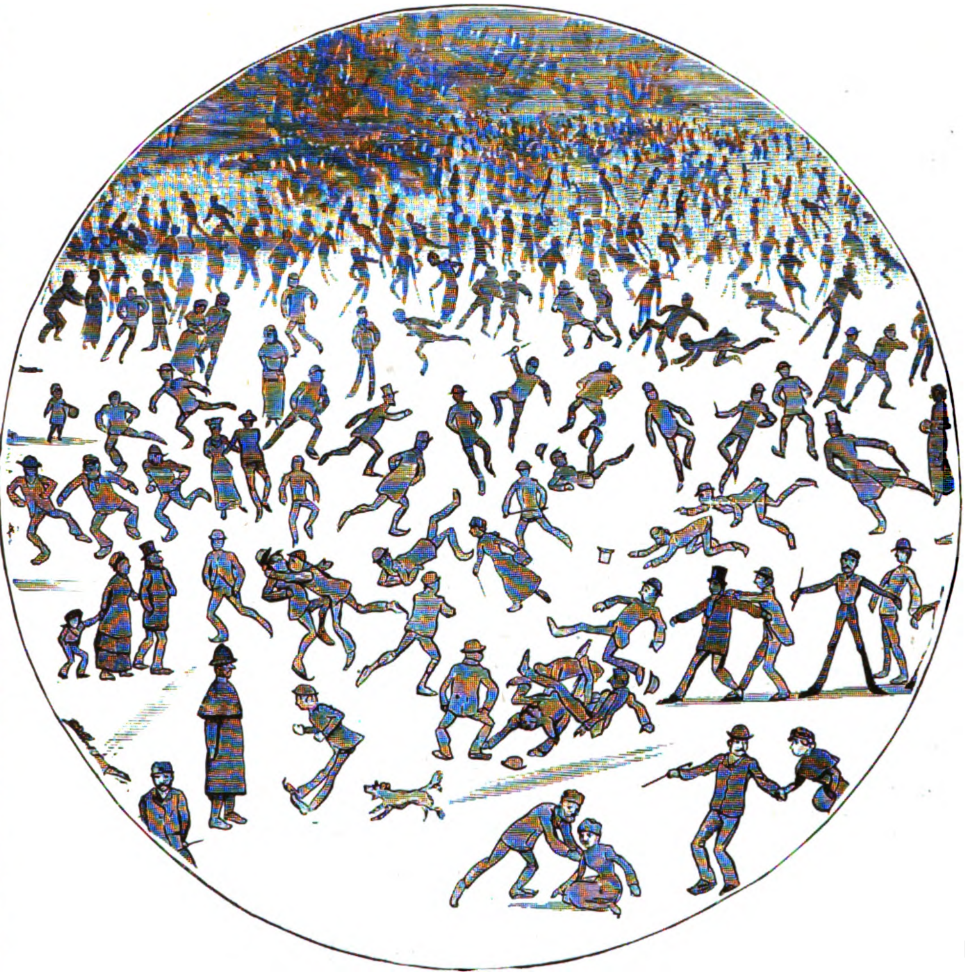

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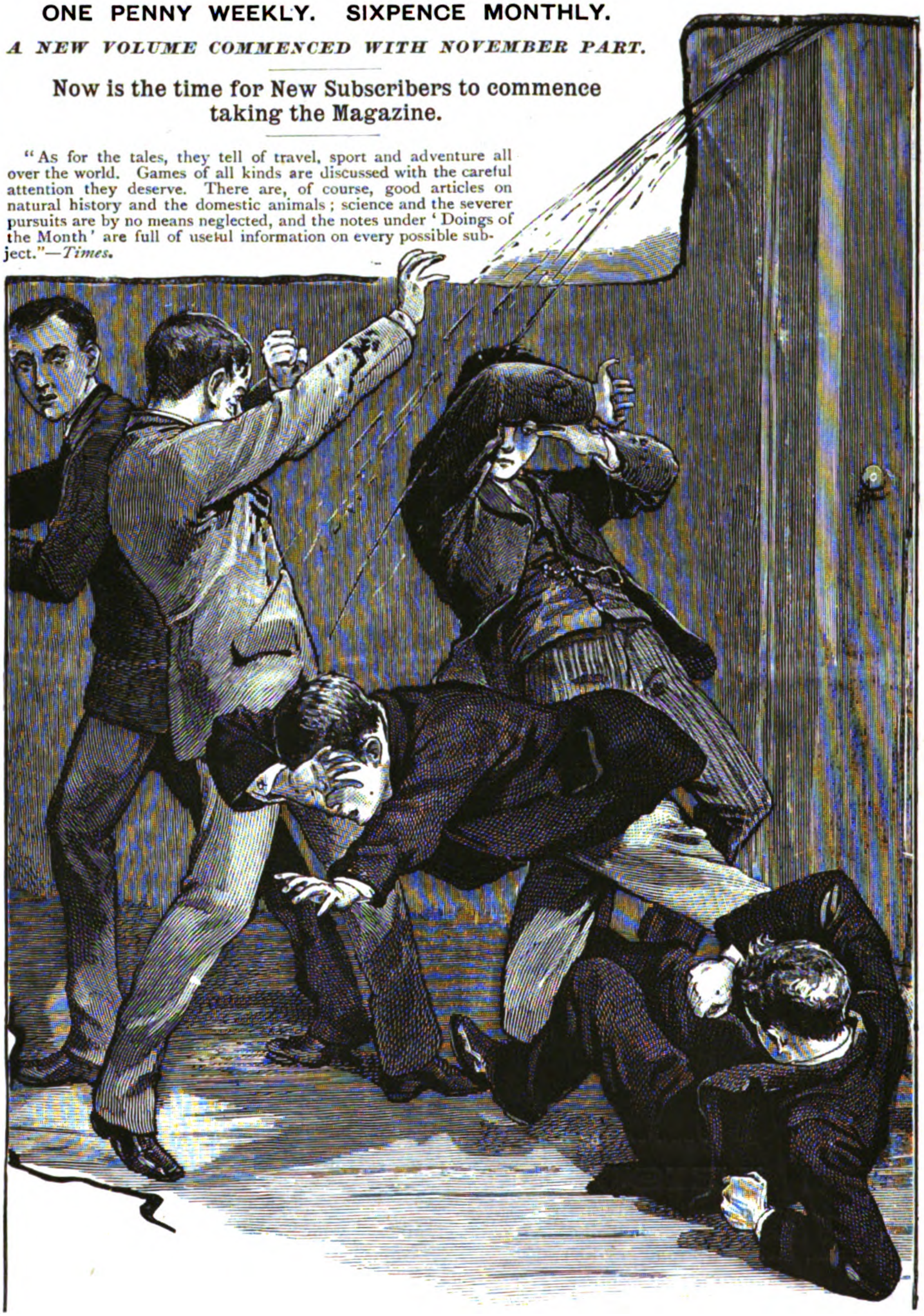

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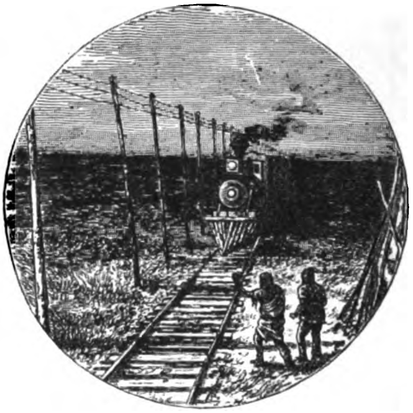

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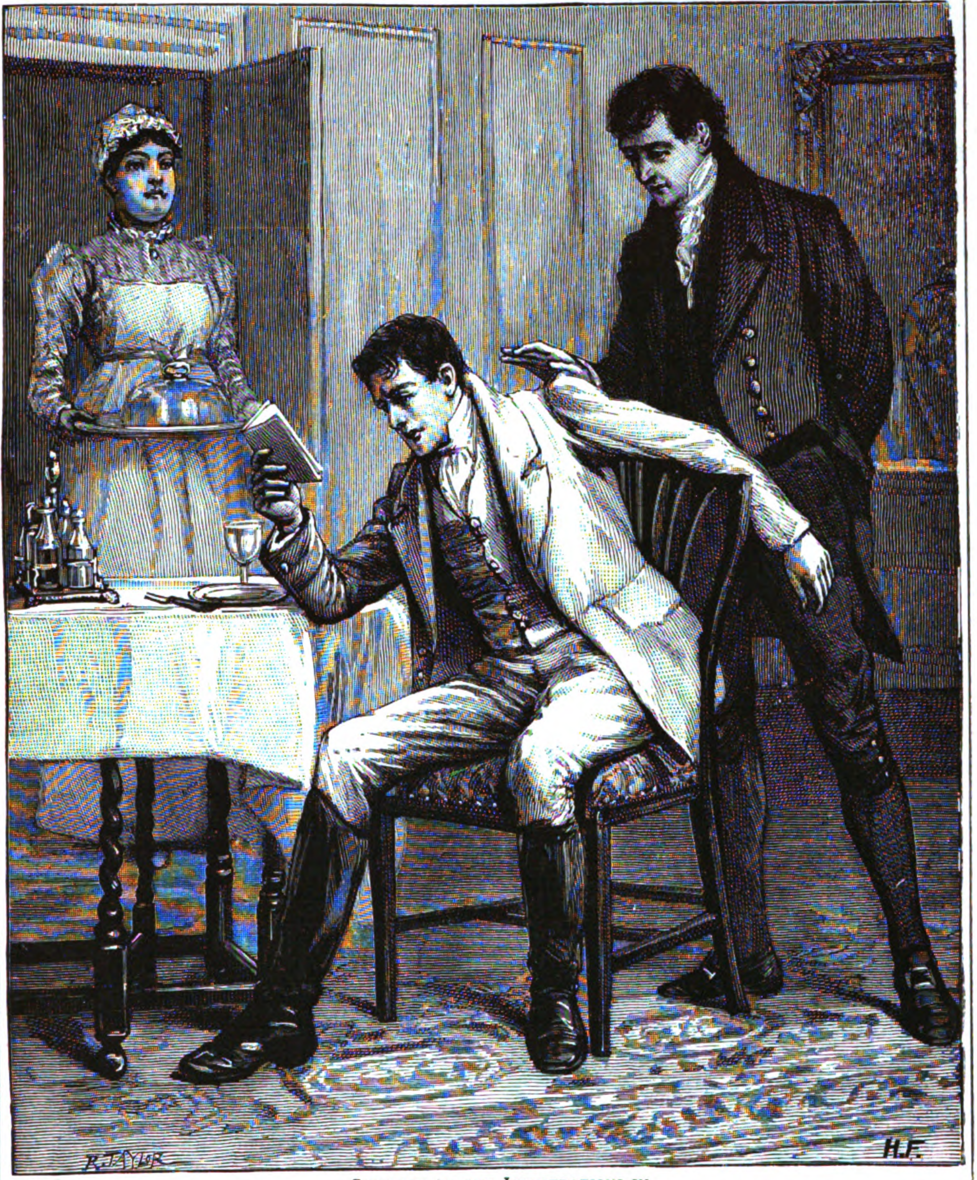

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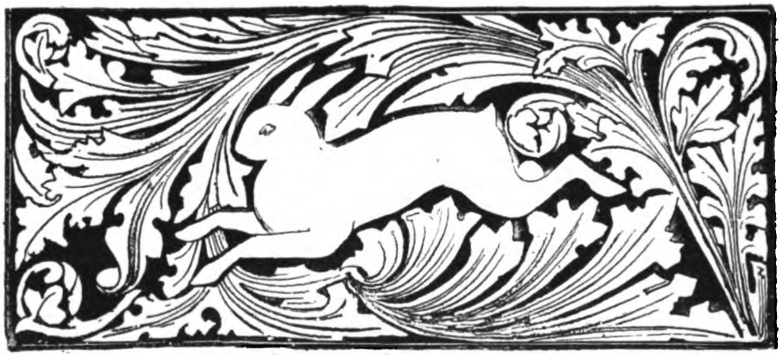

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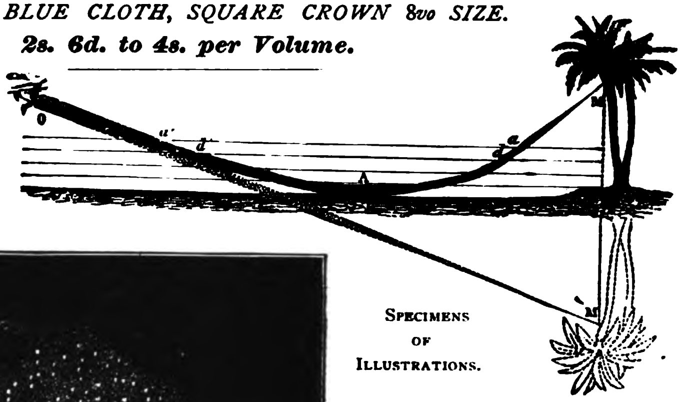

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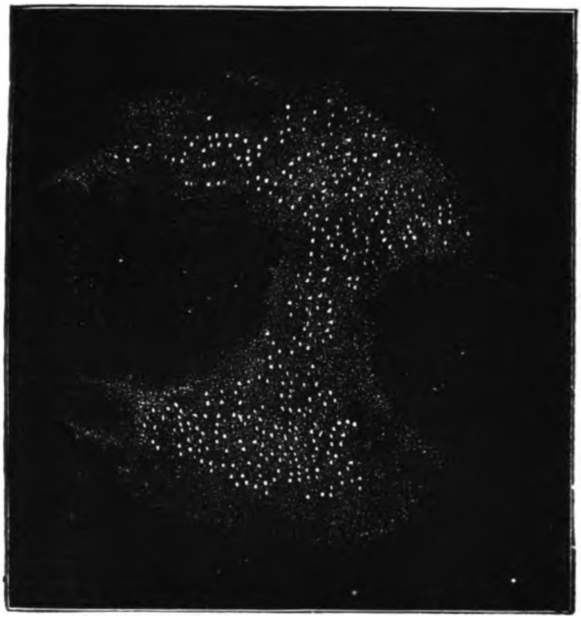

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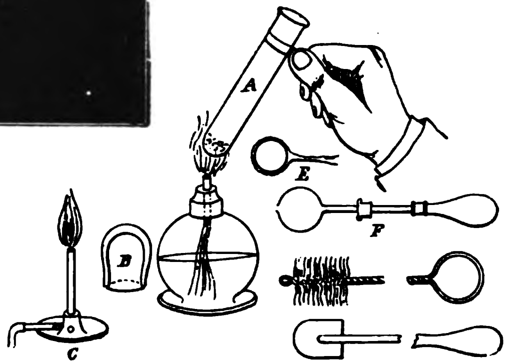

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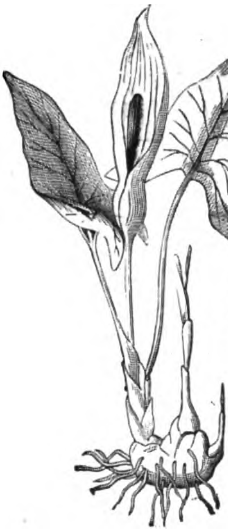

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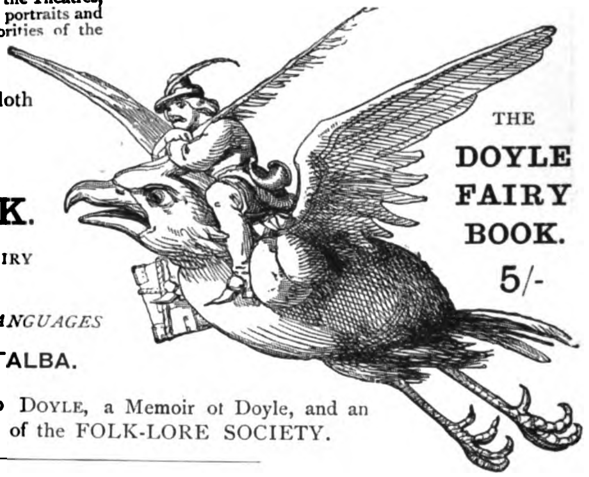

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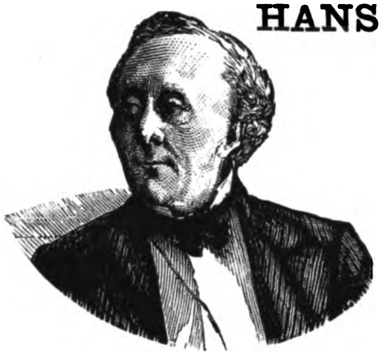

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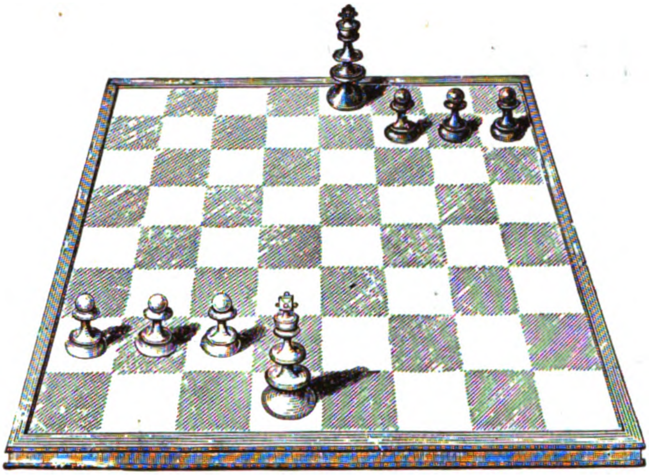

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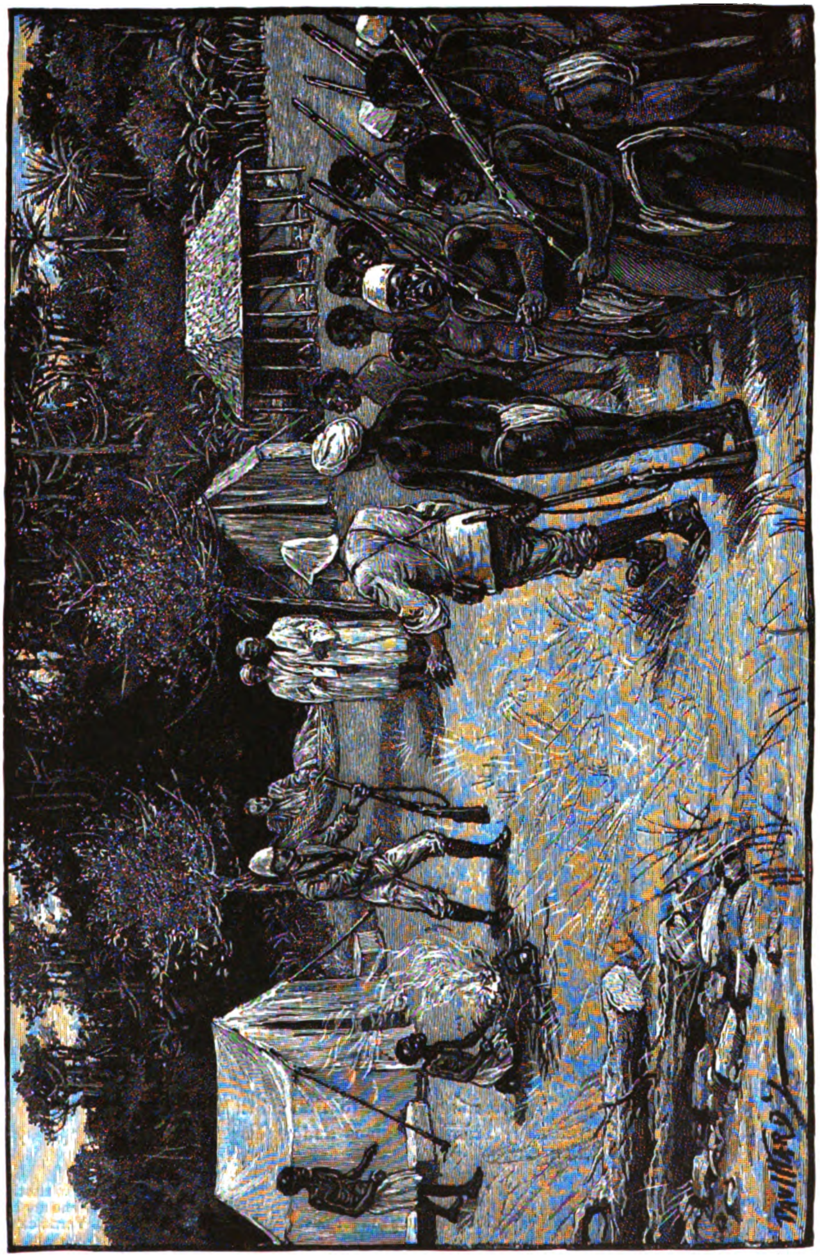

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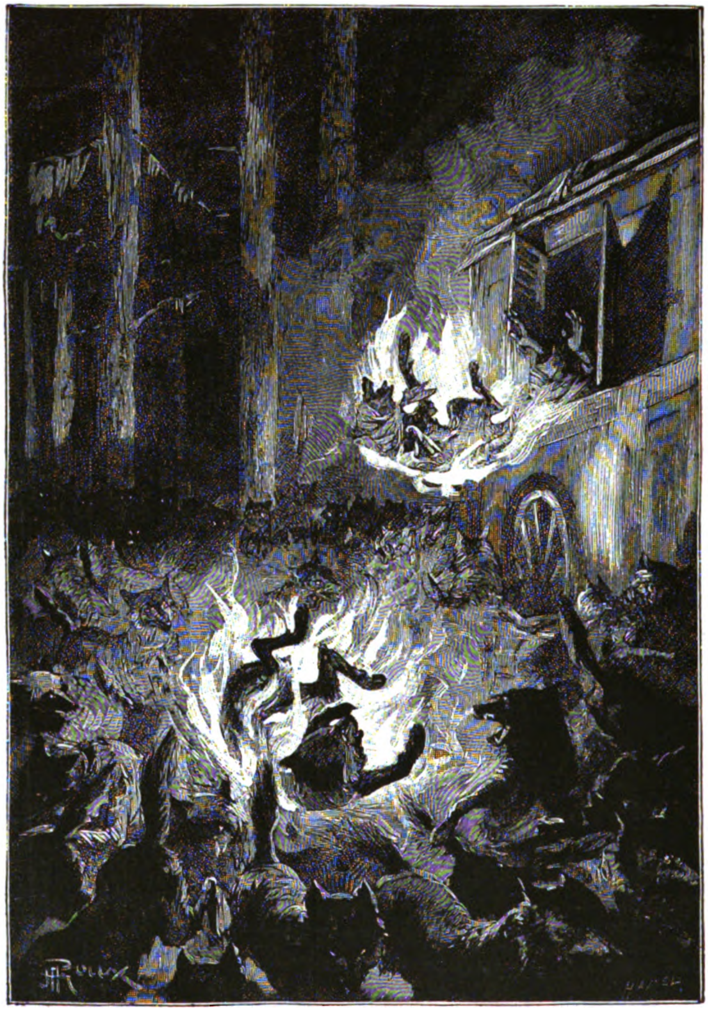

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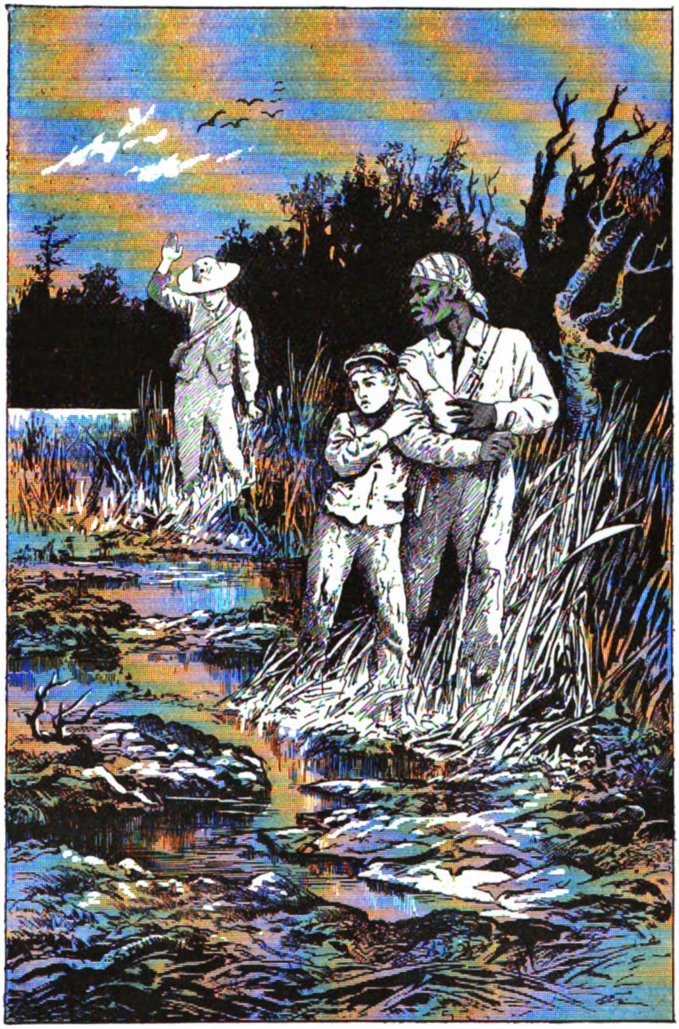

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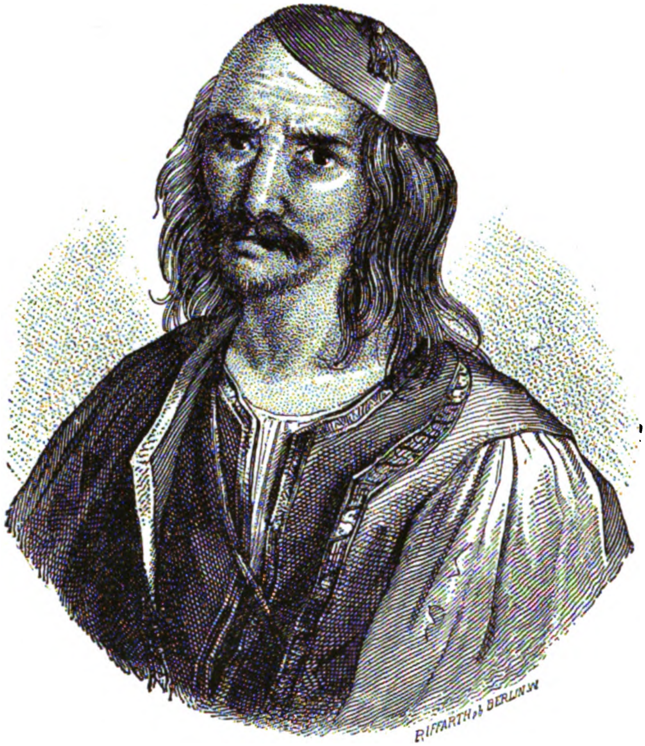

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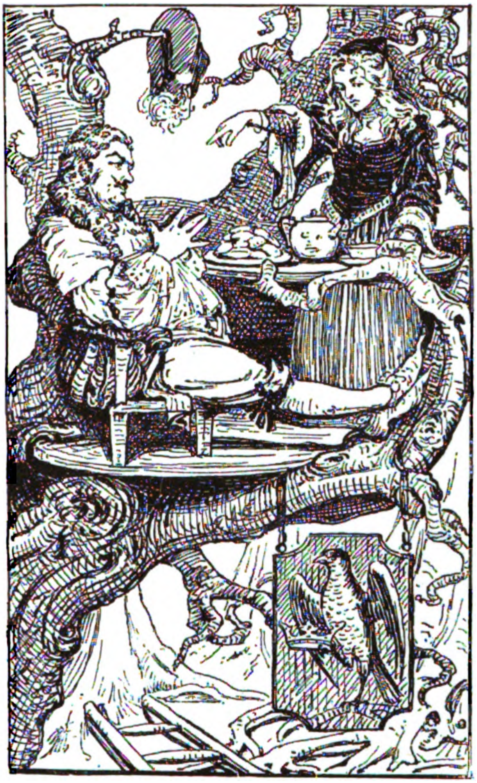

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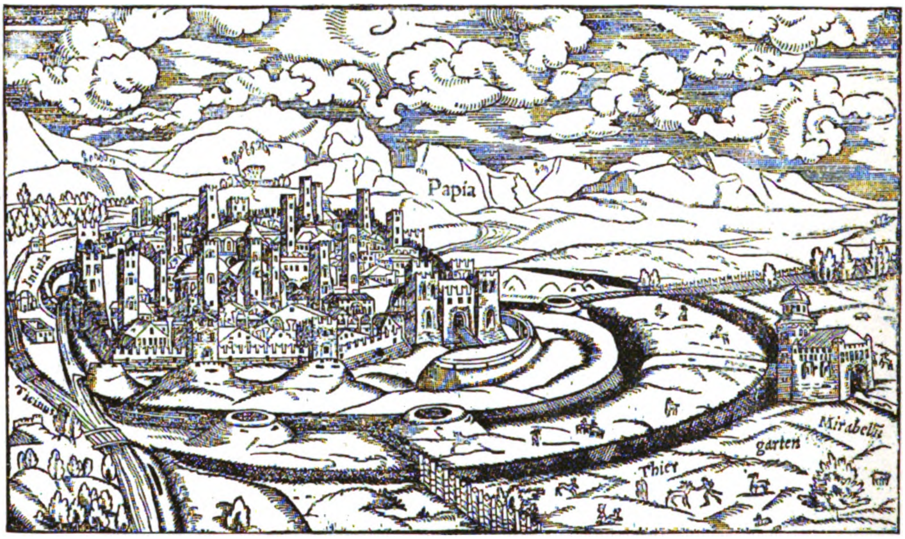

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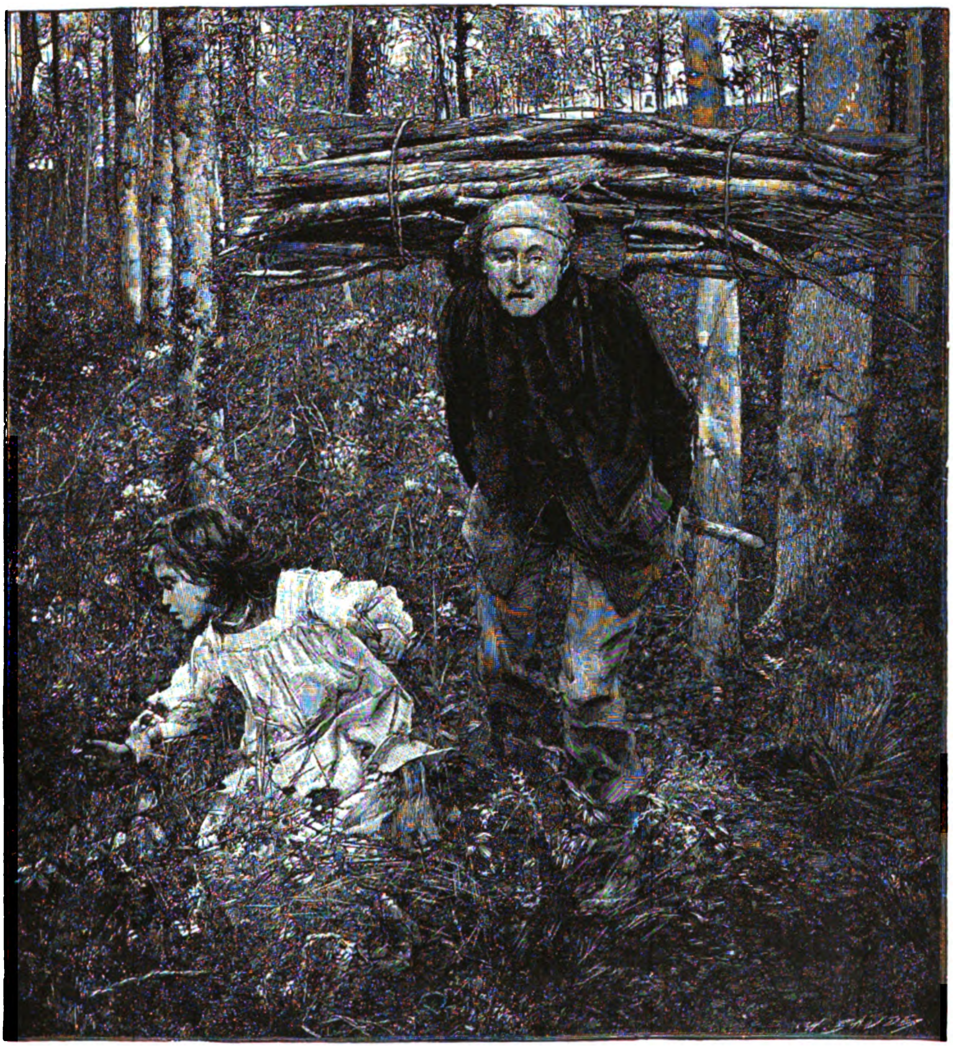

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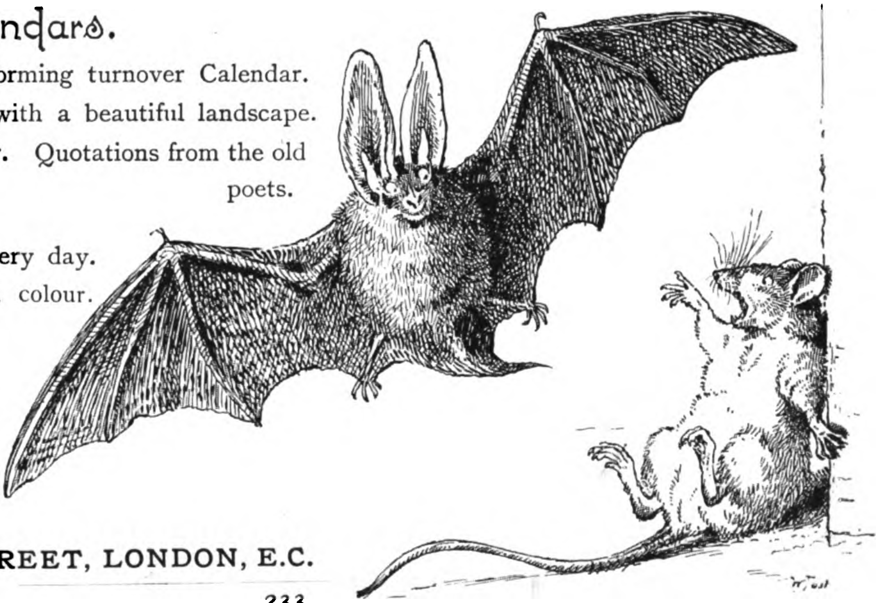

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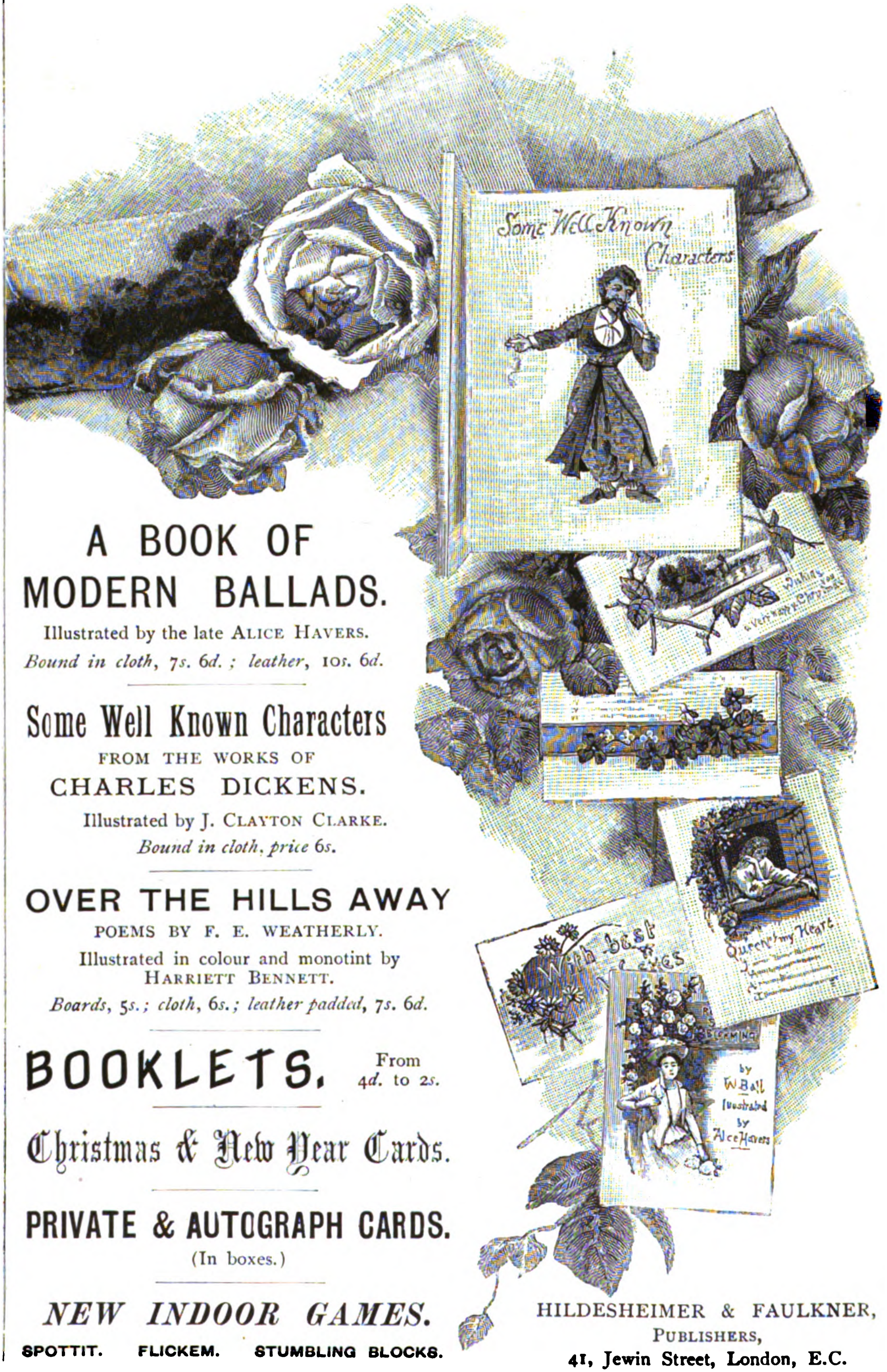
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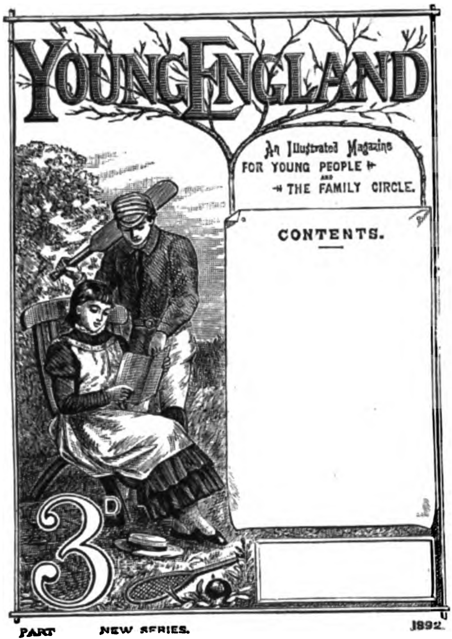

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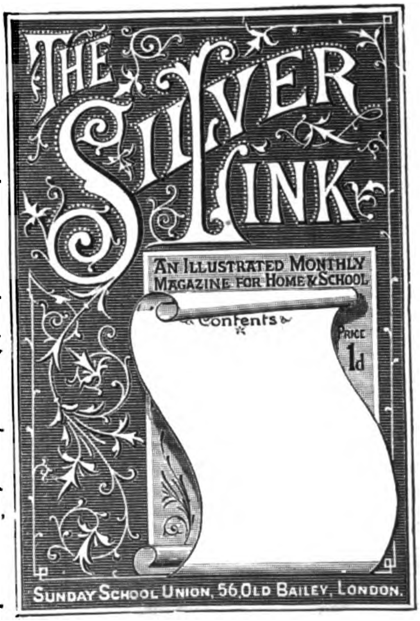
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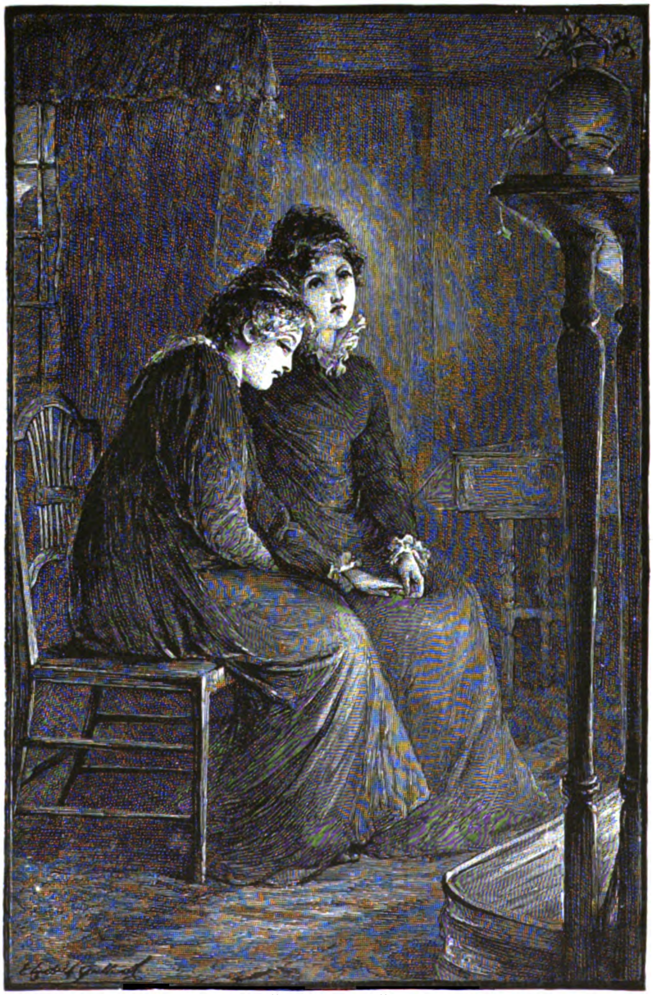

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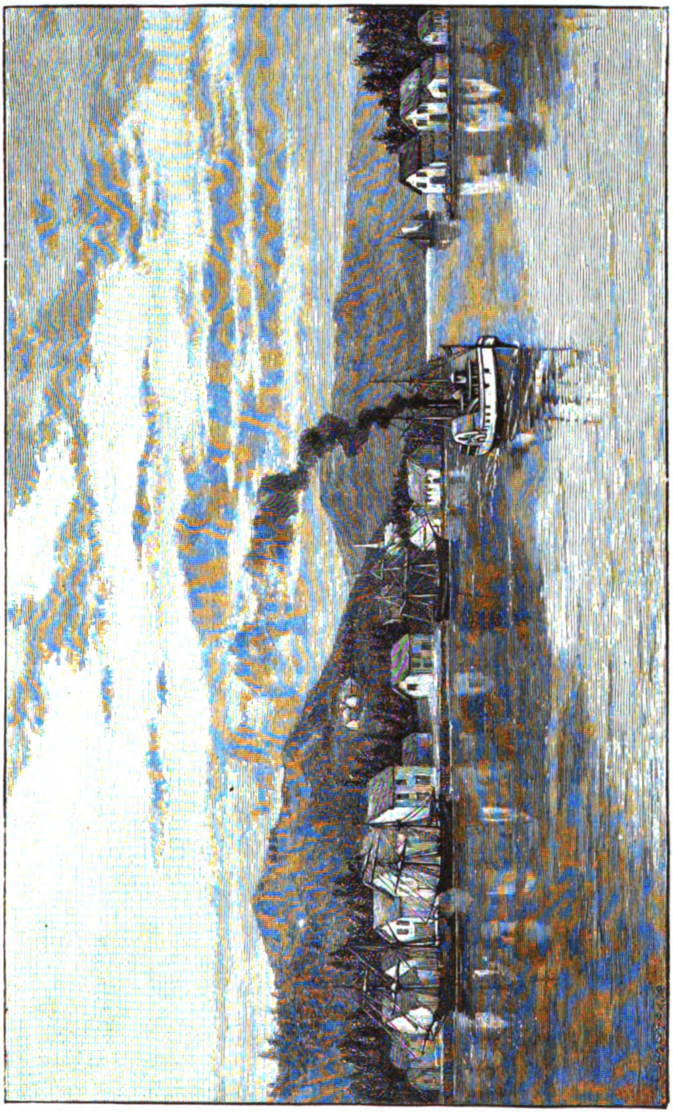

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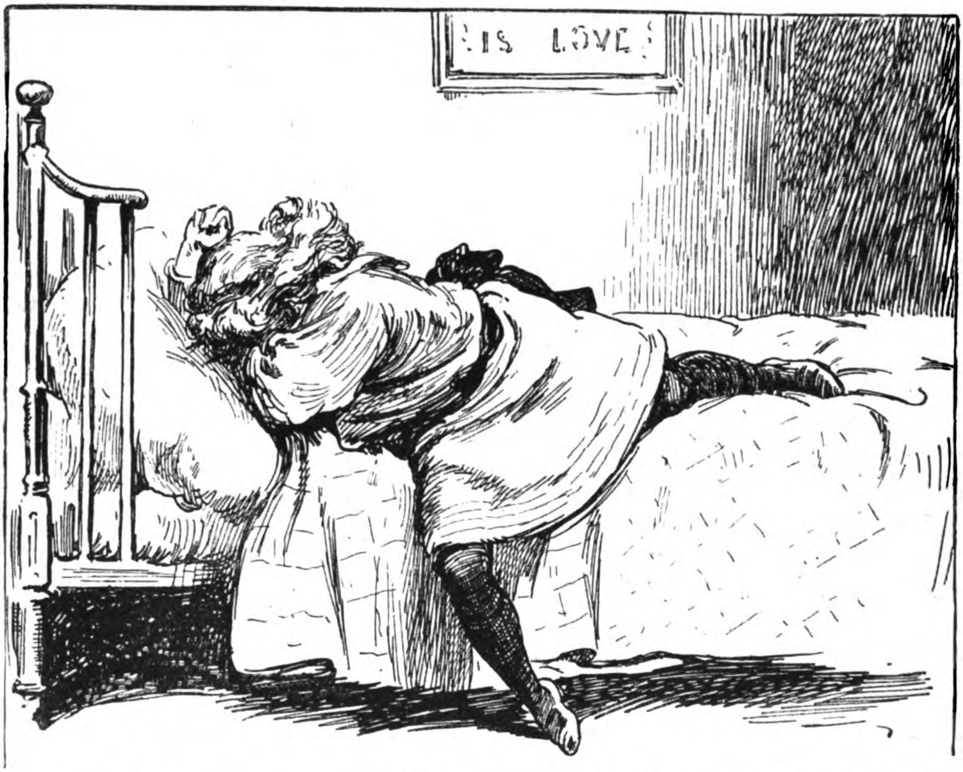

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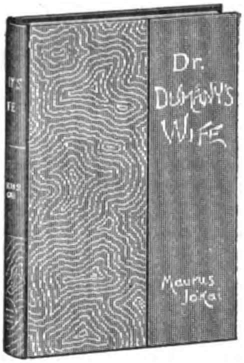

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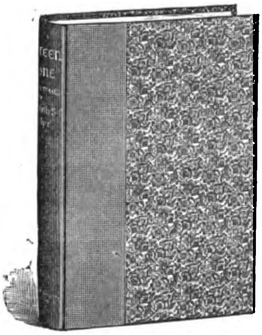

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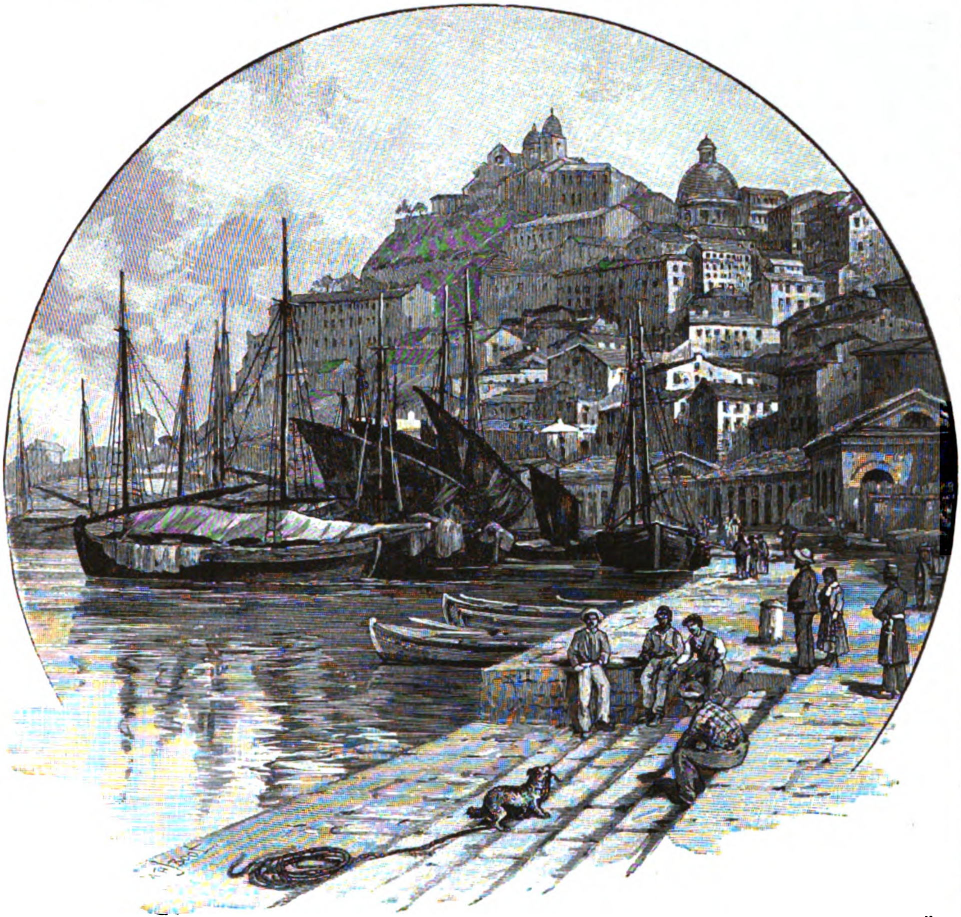

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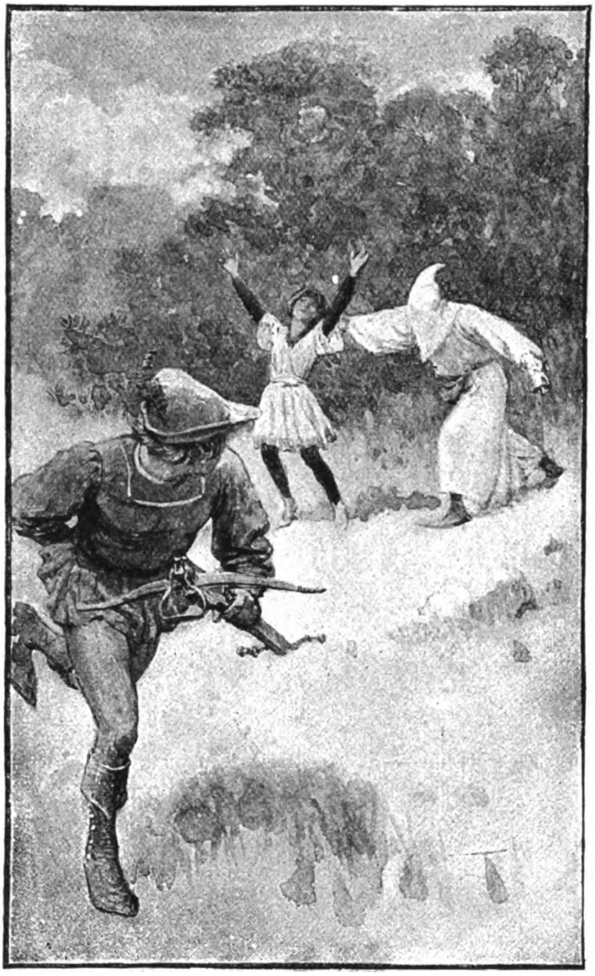

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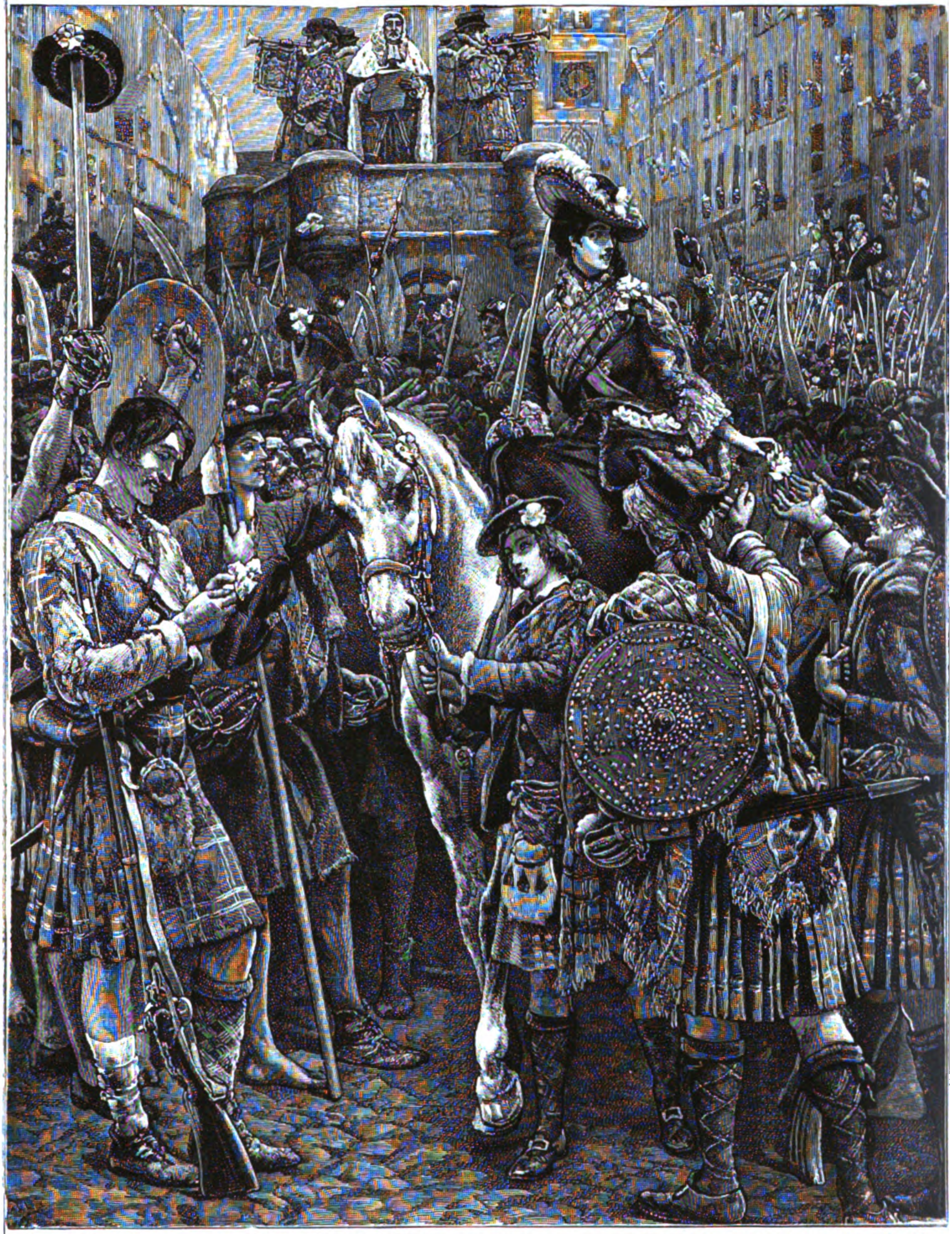

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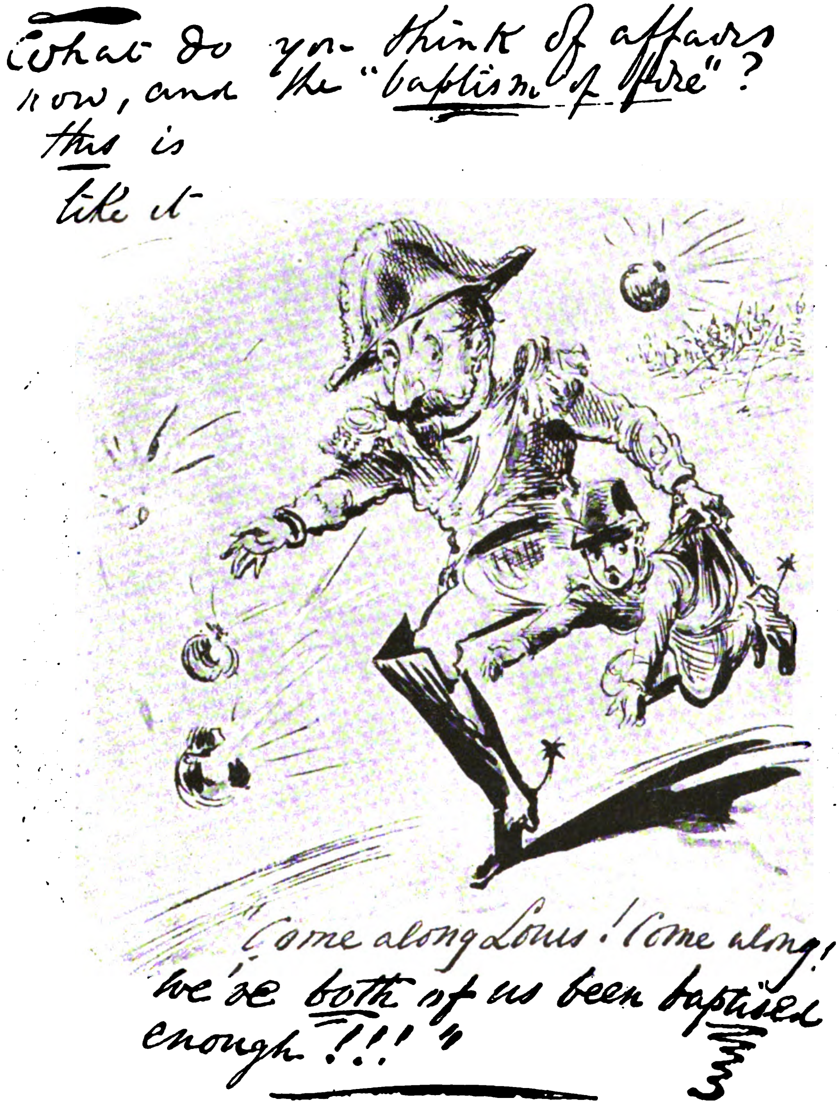
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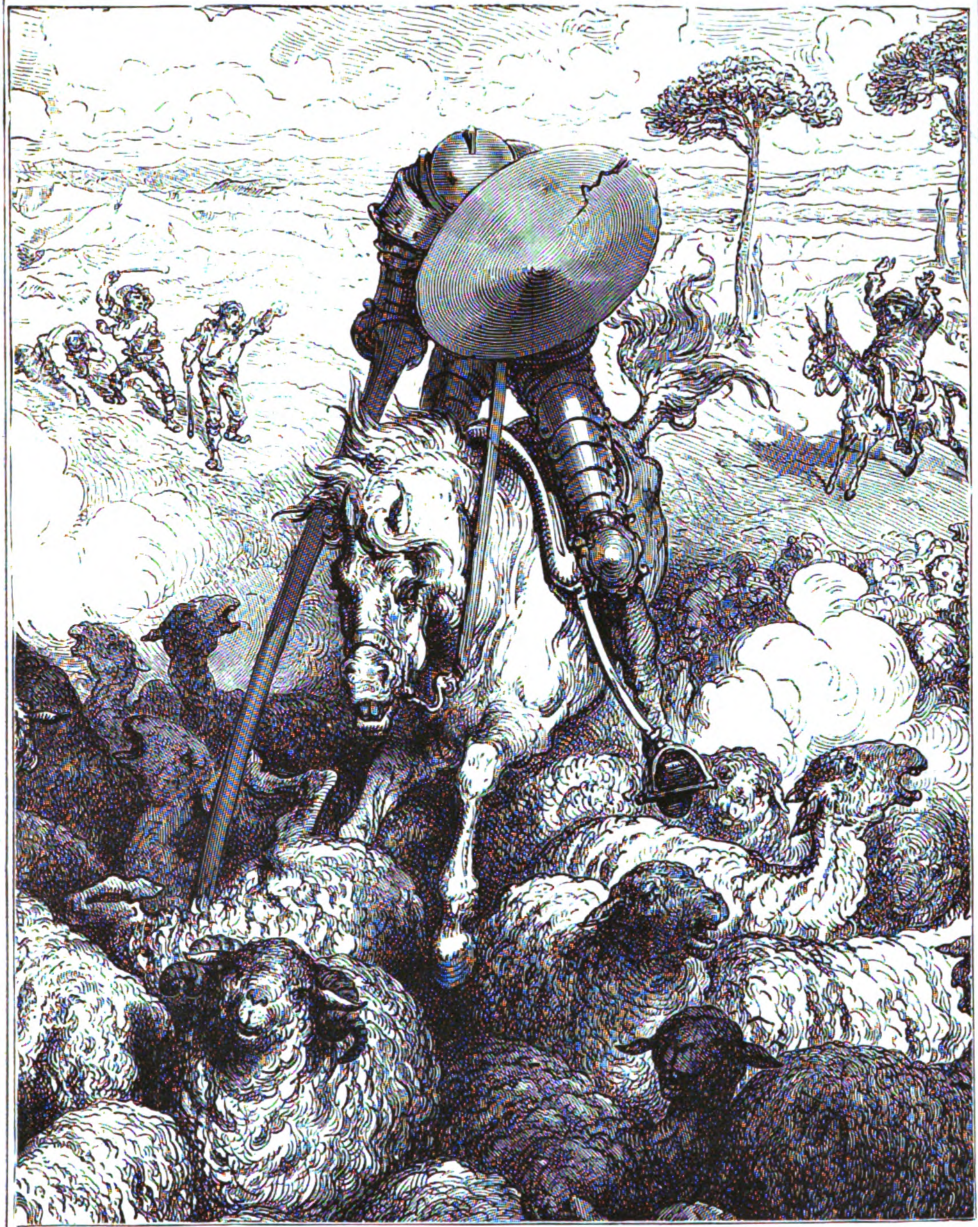

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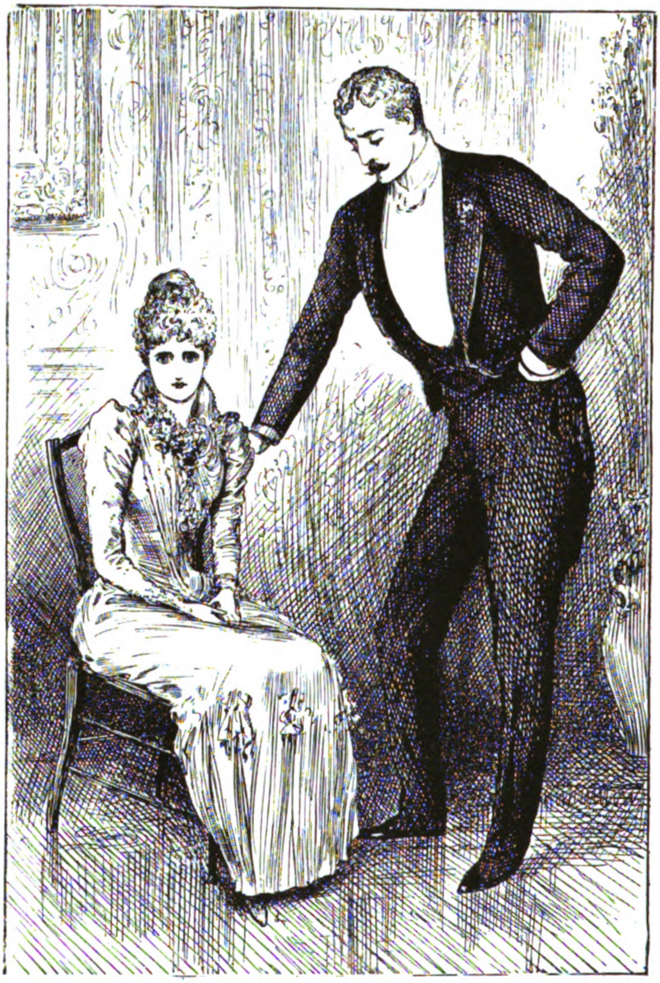

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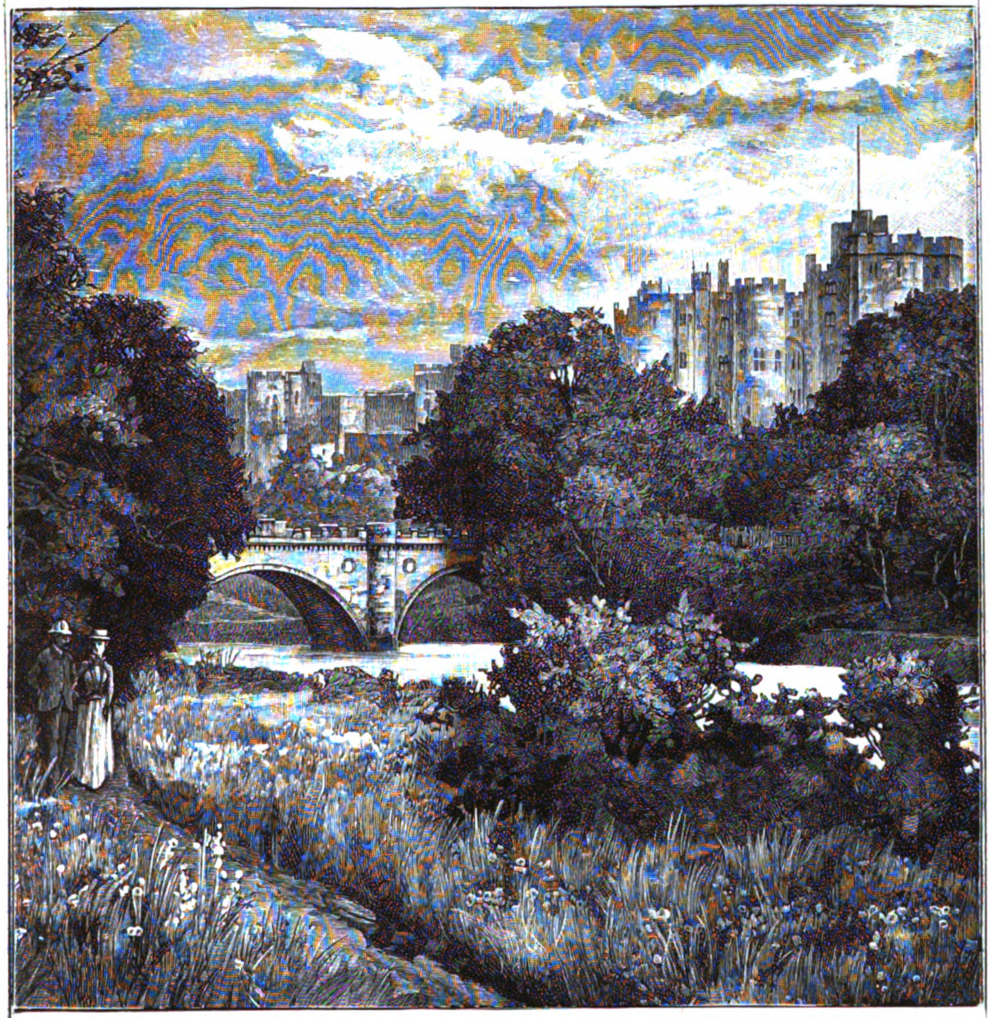

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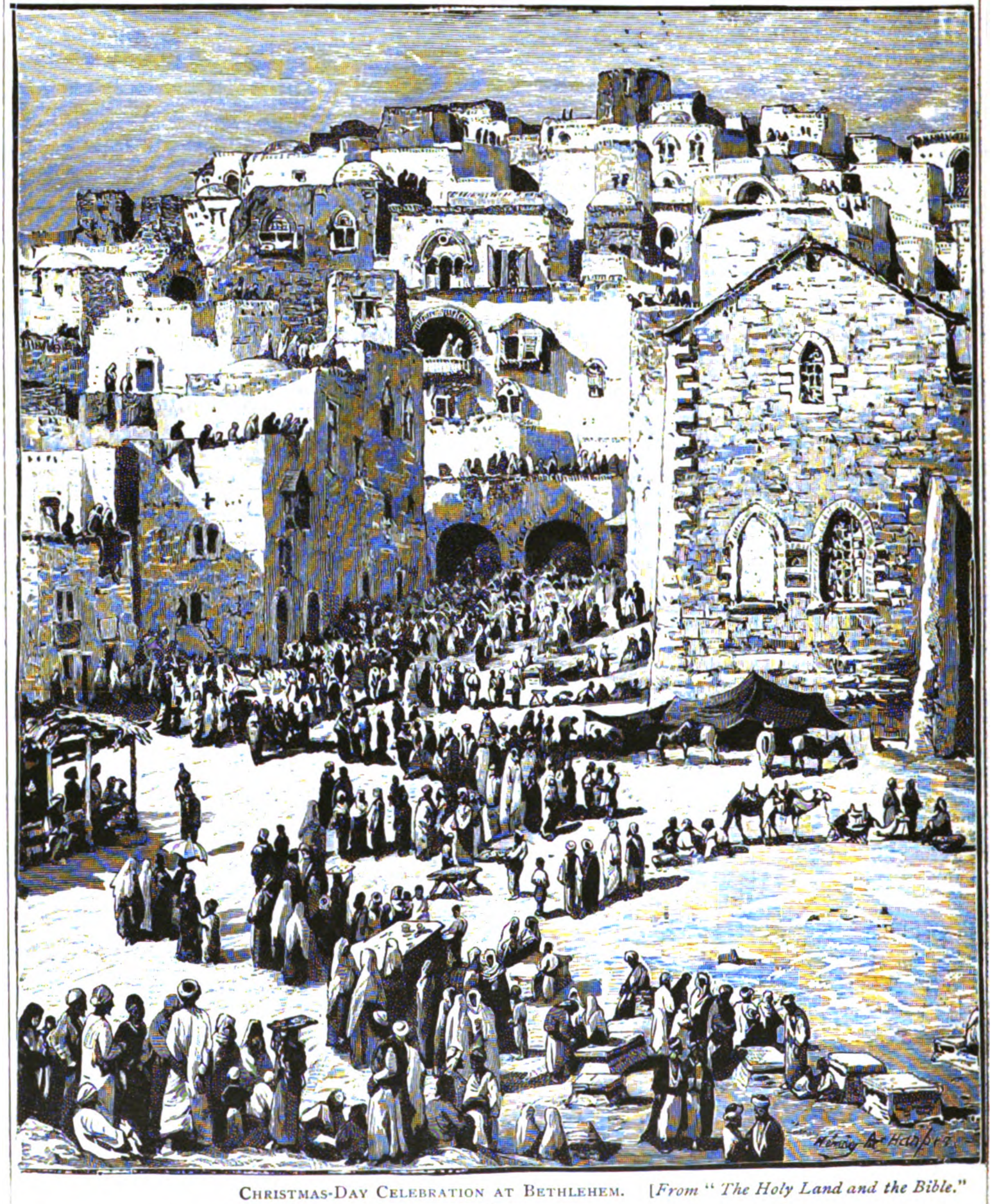

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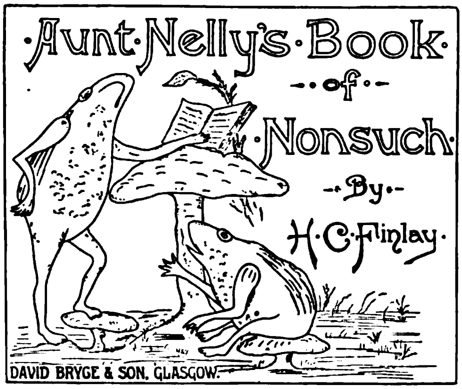

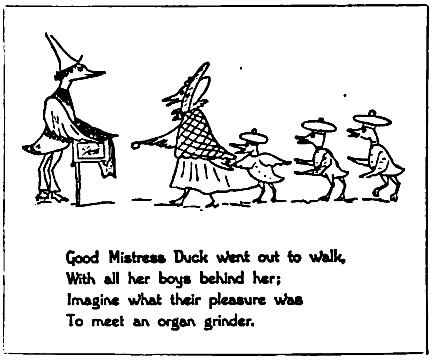

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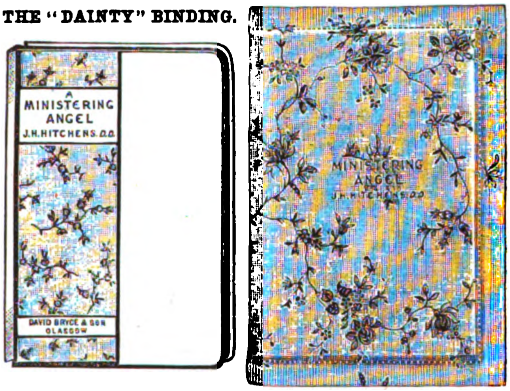
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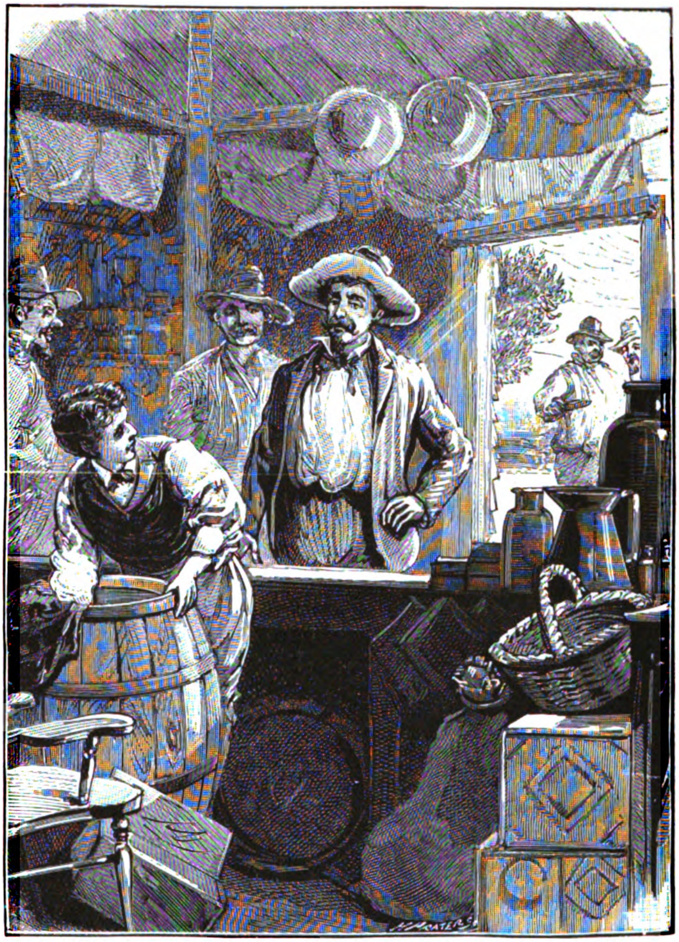

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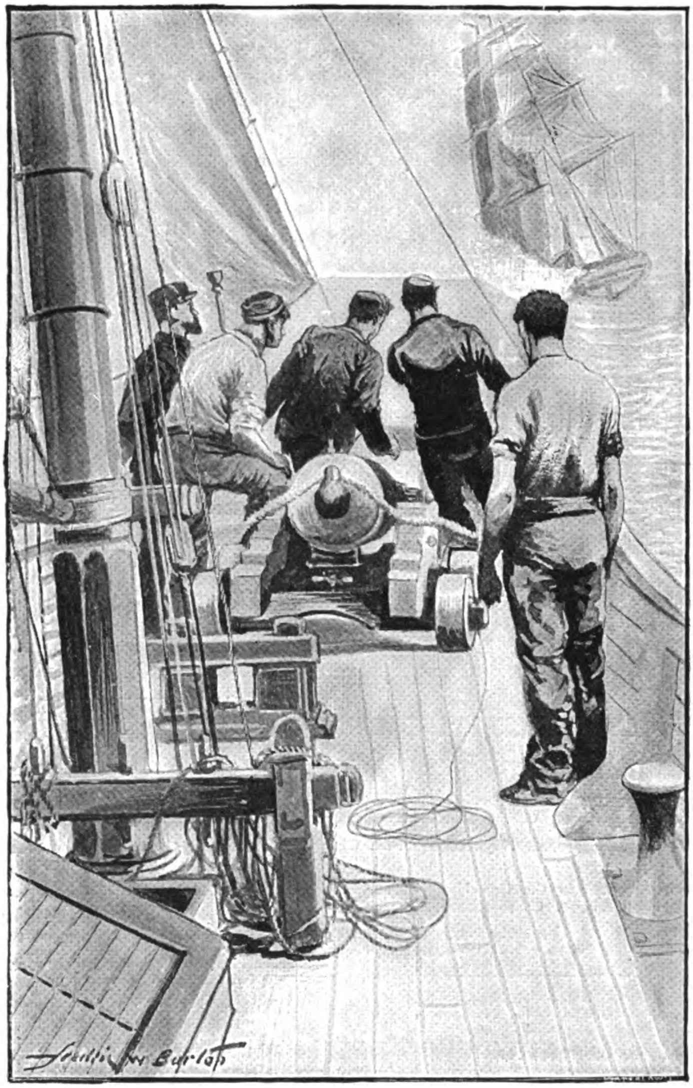

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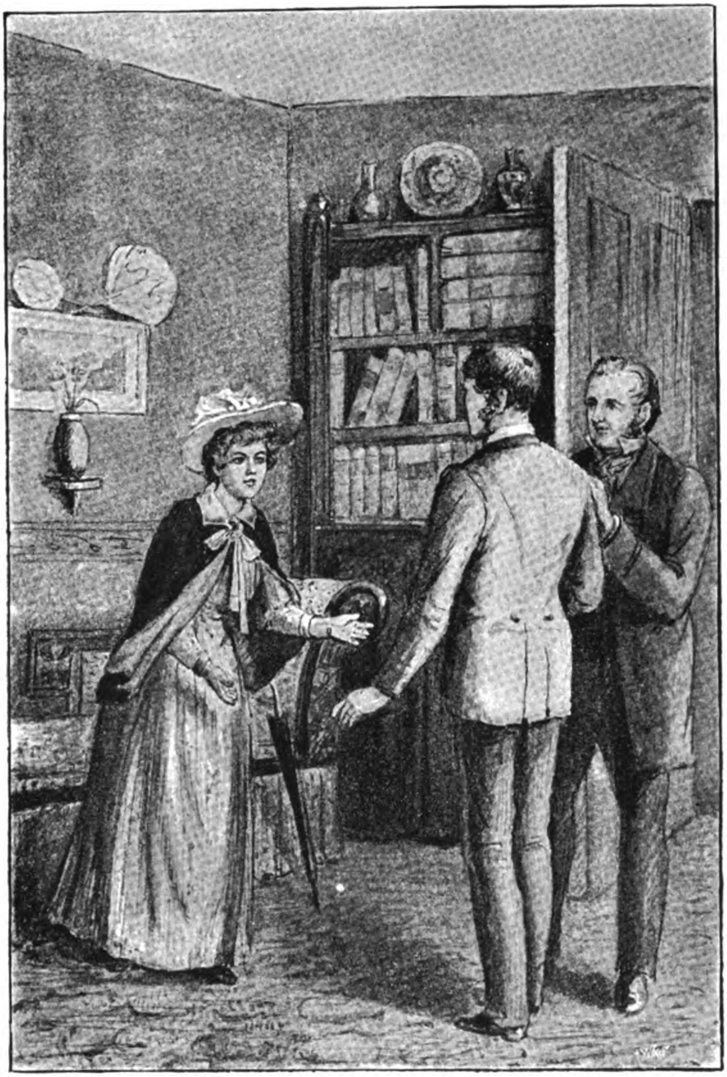

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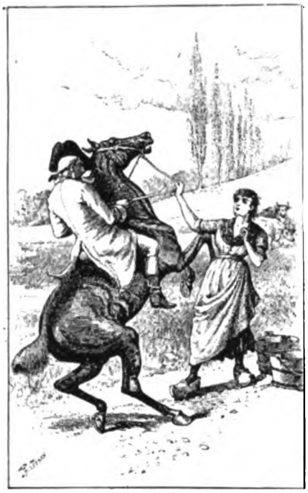

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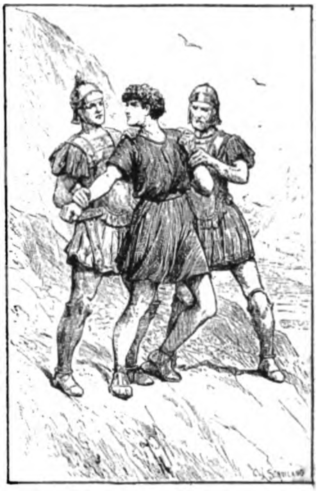

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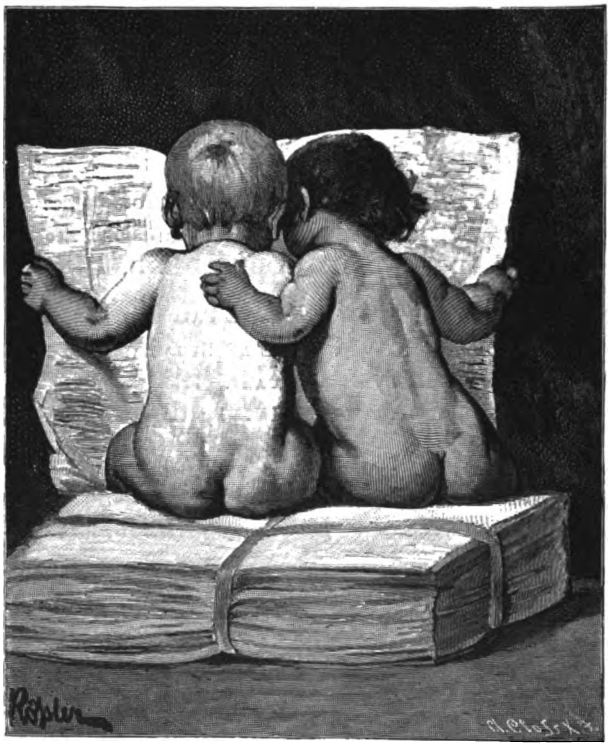

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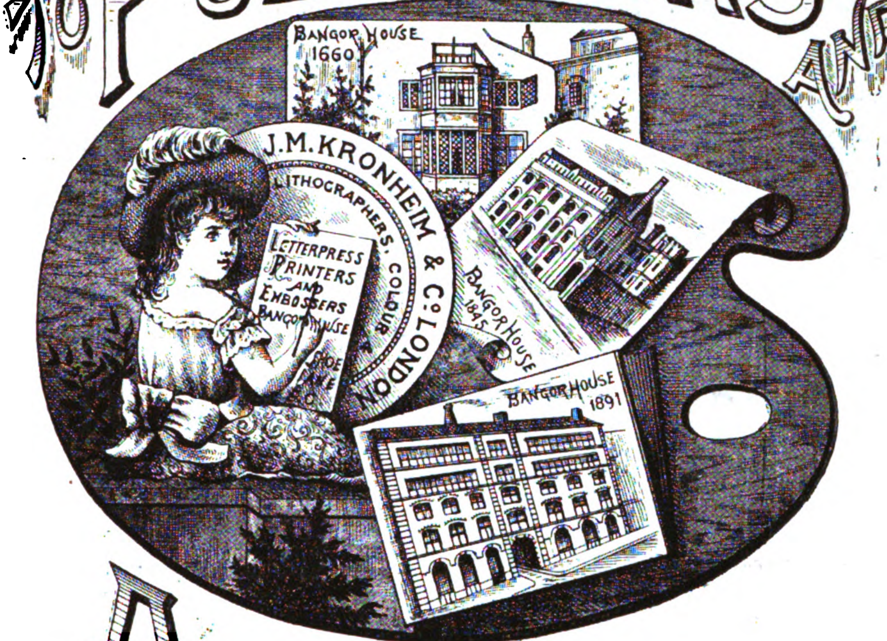
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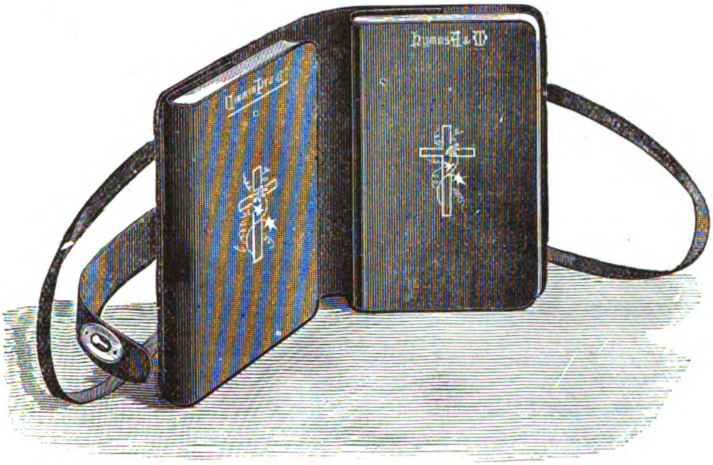

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